



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

June 28, 2019

Case No. F-2019-02012

Segments: IPS-0001

Amrit Singh  
Director, Accountability, Liberty  
& Transparency Division  
Open Society Justice Initiative  
224 West 57<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, New York 10019  
Amrit.singh@opensocietyfoundations.org

Dear Ms. Singh:

In response to your request dated December 4, 2018, under the Freedom of Information Act (the "FOIA"), 5 U.S.C. § 552, and pursuant to an order of the Court directing the Department to process at a rate of 5,000 pages per month, the Department completed the review of over 5,000 pages of potentially responsive records. The processing of records is ongoing and has, thus far, yielded 97 documents responsive to your request. Upon review, we have determined 55 documents may be released in part, and 42 documents must be withheld in full pursuant to FOIA Exemptions 1, 4 and 6, 5 U.S.C. §§ 552(b)(1), (b)(4) and (b)(6).

An enclosure explains the FOIA exemptions and other grounds for withholding material. Where we have made excisions, the applicable FOIA exemptions are marked on each document. In some cases, two or more exemptions may apply to the same document. All non-exempt material that is reasonably segregable from the exempt material has been released, and is enclosed.

The processing of your request is ongoing, and we will keep you informed as your case progresses. If you have any questions, your attorney may contact Assistant U.S. Attorney Peter Aronoff, at (212) 637-2697 or [peter.aronoff@usdoj.gov](mailto:peter.aronoff@usdoj.gov), and Assistant U.S. Attorney Natasha Teleanu, at (212) 637-2528 or [natasha.teleanu@usdoj.gov](mailto:natasha.teleanu@usdoj.gov). Please refer to the case number, F-2019-02012, and the civil action number, 19-cv-00234, in all correspondence about this case.

Sincerely,

Susan Weetman  
Chief, Programs and Policies Division  
Office of Information Programs and Services

Enclosures: As stated.

The Freedom of Information Act (5 USC 552)

**FOIA Exemptions**

(b)(1) Information specifically authorized by an executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy. Executive Order 13526 includes the following classification categories:

- 1.4(a) Military plans, systems, or operations
- 1.4(b) Foreign government information
- 1.4(c) Intelligence activities, sources or methods, or cryptology
- 1.4(d) Foreign relations or foreign activities of the US; including confidential sources
- 1.4(e) Scientific, technological, or economic matters relating to national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
- 1.4(f) U.S. Government programs for safeguarding nuclear materials or facilities
- 1.4(g) Vulnerabilities or capabilities of systems, installations, infrastructures, projects, plans, or protection services relating to US national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
- 1.4(h) Weapons of mass destruction

(b)(2) Related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency

(b)(3) Specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than 5 USC 552), for example:

ARMSEXP	Arms Export Control Act, 50a USC 2411(c)
CIA PERS/ORG	Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, 50 USC 403(g)
EXPORT CONTROL	Export Administration Act of 1979, 50 USC App. Sec. 2411(c)
FS.ACT	Foreign Service Act of 1980, 22 USC 4004
INA	Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 USC 1202(f), Sec. 222(f)
IRAN	Iran Claims Settlement Act, Public Law 99-99, Sec. 505

(b)(4) Trade secrets and confidential commercial or financial information

(b)(5) Interagency or intra-agency communications forming part of the deliberative process, attorney-client privilege, or attorney work product

(b)(6) Personal privacy information

(b)(7) Law enforcement information whose disclosure would:

- (A) interfere with enforcement proceedings
- (B) deprive a person of a fair trial
- (C) constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy
- (D) disclose confidential sources
- (E) disclose investigation techniques
- (F) endanger life or physical safety of an individual

(b)(8) Prepared by or for a government agency regulating or supervising financial institutions

(b)(9) Geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells

**Other Grounds for Withholding**

NR Material not responsive to a FOIA request excised with the agreement of the requester

~~SECRET//NOFORN~~

Sensitive

RELEASE IN PART  
1.4(B),B1,1.4(D),B6



**MRN:** 18 MUSCAT 293  
**Date/DTG:** Oct 15, 2018 / 151029Z OCT 18  
**From:** AMEMBASSY MUSCAT  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PREL, PGOV, PHUM, KCRM, SA, TR, AE, OM  
**Captions:** NOFORN, SENSITIVE  
**Reference:** 18 RIYADH 731  
**Pass Line:** AMEMBASSY CAIRO PASS TO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA  
**Subject:** [REDACTED]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

1. (S//NF) [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

2. (S//NF) [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

3. (S//NF) [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

4. (SBU) After scrupulously avoiding public comment in the initial days after Khashoggi's

disappearance, and in fact avoiding any coverage of the incident in Omani-government controlled press, the MFA issued an unusual statement late on October 14, which expressed support for Saudi Arabia “in its efforts to clarify the truth.” The statement also urged “all interested parties not to rush” to issue judgments before confirming what happened to the journalist.

5. (S//NF)

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

6. (S//NF)

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

7. (S//NF)

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

**Signature:** SIEVERS

**Classified By:** Name: Marc Sievers, Title: Ambassador  
Office: Embassy Muscat  
Agency: U.S. Department of State

**Derived From:** DSCG 17-1

**Declassify On:** 2043/10/15

**Drafted By:** MUSCAT: (Muscat)

**Cleared By:** U.S. Embassy Muscat: (Muscat)

**Approved By:** U.S. Embassy Muscat: (Muscat)

**Released By:** MUSCAT: (Muscat)

**Info:** CIA WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE ROUTINE;  
GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE ROUTINE;  
ZEN/ALEXANDRIA, AMCONSUL

**XMT:** BASRAH, AMCONSUL; SANAA EMBASSY

**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

B6

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RELEASE IN PART NR,B6

UNCLASSIFIED  
SBU



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**MRN:** 18 LONDON 3236  
**Date/DTG:** Nov 01, 2018 / 011314Z NOV 18  
**From:** AMEMBASSY LONDON  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE *ROUTINE*  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PREL, ECON, EFIN, MOPS, KSAN, KDSH, ETRD, TSPL, RU, IR, SY, KP, 1A, QA, SA, AE, UA, AF, PK, GB  
**Captions:** SENSITIVE, CODEL  
**Pass Line:** STATE FOR H/CTO  
**Subject:** Scenesetter for STAFFDEL Grove visit to London November 5 - 6, 2018

NR

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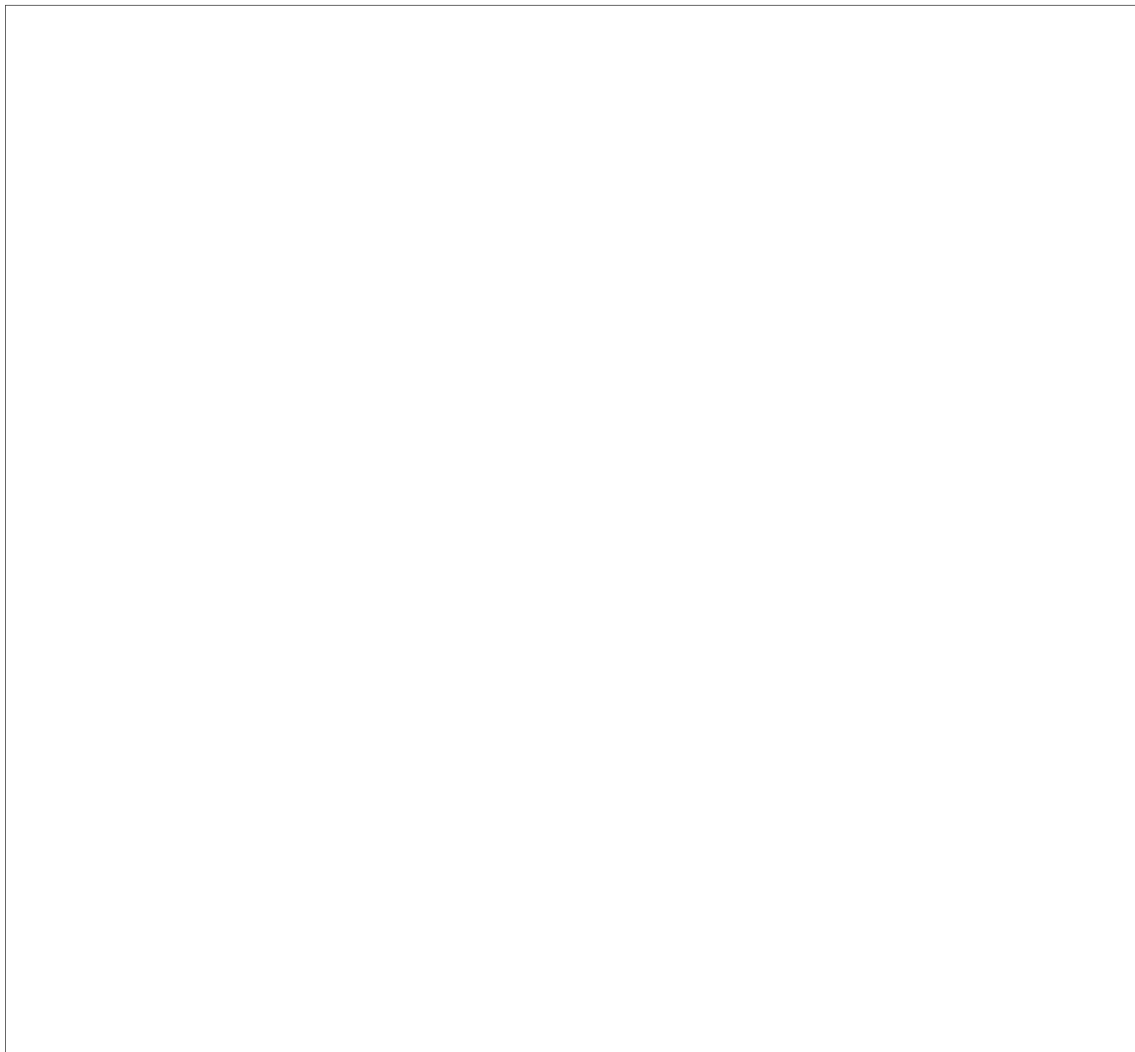
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#### **Yemen and the Gulf**

18. (SBU) As a member of the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen, the UK remains supportive of U.S. policy and like us, seeks to reinvigorate the political negotiations that will lead to a resolution. Former Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson made Yemen one of his personal priorities, but it remains to be seen what approach new Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt will take. UK relations with Oman are long and deep, and HMG may be seeking to leverage these relations to persuade Oman to help bring the Huthis to the negotiating table. Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman visited London in March 2018 for conversations on a “strategic partnership” that resulted in UK support for Vision 2030; cooperation agreements in education, health, culture and entertainment sectors; trade and investment agreements potentially worth £65 billion (with the UK pressing hard for the Saudi Aramco IPO to be offered on the London Stock Exchange); and cooperation on a range of bilateral security and defense issues, as well as regional security issues. Following the murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul, PM May announced the UK, like the U.S., would ban Saudi officials suspected of taking part in the killing from entering the country. It remains to be seen if or how this incident will

impact long term UK/Saudi relations.

NR



NR

**Signature:**

[Redacted]

B6

**Drafted By:**

LONDON: [Redacted] (London)

**Cleared By:**

POL: [Redacted] (London)

POL: [Redacted]

POL: [Redacted] (London)

POL: [Redacted] (London)

POL: [Redacted] (London)

POL: [Redacted] (London)

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POL: [Redacted] (London)

[Redacted]

B6

Approved By:  
Released By:  
Info:

ECON: [redacted] (London)  
ESTH: [redacted] (London)  
ECON: [redacted] (London)  
ECON: [redacted] (London)  
ECON: [redacted] (London)  
AMEMBASSY LONDON: [redacted]

B6

[redacted]

[redacted]

WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE;

[redacted]

B6

WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE;

CIA WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; LACUE  
COLLECTIVE ROUTINE; EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE ROUTINE  
BASRAH, AMCONSUL; SANAA MEMBASSY; ST PETERSBU  
AMCONSUL

XMT:

Dissemination Rule: Archive Copy

UNCLASSIFIED  
SBU

RELEASE IN PART B6

UNCLASSIFIED

SBU



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**MRN:** 18 RIYADH 1260  
**Date/DTG:** Nov 15, 2018 / 151851Z NOV 18  
**From:** AMEMBASSY RIYADH  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE *ROUTINE*  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PHUM, PREL, KCRM, TR, SA  
**Captions:** SENSITIVE  
**Reference:** A) 18 Riyadh 731  
B) 18 Riyadh 767  
**Subject:** Saudi Government Seeks Death Penalty for Five in Khashoggi Murder

1. (SBU) **SUMMARY:** In a statement on November 15, the Saudi Public Prosecutor's Office (PPO) announced the indictment of eleven suspects in the murder of Jamal Khashoggi and that it will seek the death penalty for five of them charged with murder. The PPO did not name any of the suspects. The statement also noted that an additional ten unnamed suspects have been detained in connection with the case, although formal charges have yet to be brought against them. The PPO stated that Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman had no knowledge of or involvement in the crime. Following the statement by the PPO, Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir likewise asserted that the Crown Prince had "absolutely" no knowledge of the operation to kill Khashoggi and lambasted the "vicious" campaign to politicize the case as an attempt to drive a wedge in the Muslim world. **End Summary.**

#### **21 Suspects, Eleven Indictments, and Five Murder Charges**

2. (SBU) On November 15, Deputy Public Prosecutor Shal'an bin Rajeh bin Shal'an announced in a press conference that the Public Prosecutor's Office (PPO) had indicted eleven individuals in connection with the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, and that it would seek the death penalty for five of them. The five facing the death penalty are charged with murder, while charges against the remaining six were not specified. Shal'an also announced that he had summoned an additional three people in connection with Khashoggi's murder, bringing the total number of suspects in the case to 21. Investigations for the remaining ten suspects (of the 21 total detained) are ongoing. Shal'an did not name any of the suspects, citing secrecy provisions of the Law of Criminal Procedure, nor did he indicate which court would try the case. [Note: This is the third major statement by the PPO on the Khashoggi murder. On October 19, the PPO announced the arrest of 18 suspects and dismissal of five officials, including Royal Court media advisor Saud al-Qahtani and Deputy General Intelligence Presidency (GIP) Chief Ahmad al-Asiri. On October 25 the PPO acknowledged Turkish evidence indicating Khashoggi's murder was premeditated. End Note.]

#### **PPO Lays out Chain of Events...**

3. (SBU) According to Shal'an, the plot began on September 29 with the issuance of an order by al-Asiri to repatriate Khashoggi by means of persuasion, or force if necessary. [Note: Al-Asiri was referred to by his former position and not mentioned by name. End note.] Shal'an stated that al-Asiri issued this order to the leader of the mission (not identified by name), who then formed a 15-member team consisting of specific groups for negotiations, intelligence, and logistics, in order to persuade and repatriate Khashoggi. The mission leader suggested to al-Asiri the assignment of a former colleague of Khashoggi's to head the negotiation group because of his previous relationship with Khashoggi. The mission leader then coordinated with a former advisor (Saud al-Qahtani) to arrange this. The PPO's investigation concluded that the killing took place after a physical altercation with Khashoggi in which he was forcibly restrained and injected with a large amount of a sedative, resulting in a lethal overdose. After the murder, Khashoggi's body was dismembered and transferred outside the consulate. Based upon descriptions provided by the individual who handed over the body to the collaborator, Saudi authorities created a composite sketch of the collaborator and provided it to Turkish authorities. The investigation has identified the individual who wore the victim's clothes after the murder and disposed of the victim's belongings in the trash, including his watch and glasses, after leaving the Consulate. The investigation established that the surveillance cameras in the Consulate were disabled and identified the individual responsible for doing so.

#### **...and Labels Turks Uncooperative**

4. (SBU) Regarding cooperation with the Turkish authorities, Shal'an noted that the PPO had submitted three official requests to the "brotherly" authorities in Turkey, dated October 17, October 25, and October 31, to provide evidence and information related to the case, including audio recordings, witness depositions, relevant cell phone records, call logs, and recordings of the comings and goings in and around the Consulate compound. When asked by a journalist, Shal'an could not confirm the existence of reported audio recordings alleged to document Khashoggi's murder. According to Shal'an, the PPO also asked Turkish authorities to sign a special cooperation mechanism specific to this case that would allow the Turkish Public Prosecutor to securely share sensitive information with its Saudi counterpart. The Turkish government has not yet responded to the Saudi requests. Responding to Shal'an's remarks, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said that Turkey is not satisfied by the PPO's statement and repeated Turkey's demand that the 15-man team involved in Khashoggi's killing should be tried in Turkey.

#### **Qahtani Viewed Khashoggi as Threat to National Security**

5. (SBU) In response to a question from a journalist, Shal'an noted that the crime scene was "outside [the] jurisdiction" of the SAG, which contributed to the SAG's initial difficulty in determining the fate of Khashoggi. Matters were made worse by false statements made by the suspects to Saudi authorities that Khashoggi had left the Consulate building after the team failed to secure his return to Saudi Arabia. The Crown Prince, Shal'an noted, did not know about the operation. When asked about the plausibility of rendition as the primary intent of the team given that they brought "specific instruments" used in his murder, Shal'an pushed back, saying "the real story is that they were dispatched in an effort to convince the victim to return home. However, when [the team] surveyed the scene and realized that they could not complete the operation, a decision was made to [kill] him." When asked about the role of former Royal Court media advisor Saud al-Qahtani, Shal'an replied that al-Qahtani asked the former Deputy GIP Chief al-Asiri to meet with the negotiation team to pass along potentially useful information. Al-Qahtani expressed his belief that the victim was coopted by organizations and states



hostile to the Kingdom and that the victim's presence outside of Saudi Arabia represented a threat to national security. He encouraged the team to persuade the victim to return, noting that his return would represent a significant achievement of the mission. Shal'an added that the SAG has placed al-Qahtani on the no-fly list and that he is under investigation.

**FM Jubeir Backs up PPO Account, Decries Critics**

6. (SBU) In a press conference that followed one hour after Shal'an's announcement, Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir reviewed the results of the investigation, highlighted repeated unsuccessful attempts to obtain information from the Turkish prosecutor, and rejected attempts to "politicize" and "internationalize" the case. Al-Jubeir stressed that the SAG is taking measures to ensure that a crime of this nature "never happens again" through the restructuring of the GIP. The committee in charge of the restructuring, led by MbS, will present its report to King Salman soon. Al-Jubeir highlighted Saudi Arabia's global roles of fighting terrorism, stabilizing energy markets, and as the land of the Two Holy Mosques. He warned that the continued politicization of the Khashoggi matter would drive a wedge in the Muslim world. He criticized American critics of Saudi Arabia who pass judgement from "6,000 miles away" and pointed to the SAG's ongoing efforts with UN Special Envoy Martin Griffiths to resolve the conflict in Yemen.

**Signature:**

[Redacted Signature]

B6

**Drafted By:**

RIYADH; [Redacted]

**Cleared By:**

PD; [Redacted]

POL; [Redacted] (Riyadh)

**Approved By:**

CONS [Redacted]

**Released By:**

RIYADH; [Redacted]

**Info:**

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE;  
WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; COOPERATION COUNCIL  
COLLECTIVE ROUTINE; ARAB COLLECTIVE ROUTINE

**XMT:**

SANAA, AMEMBASSY; BASRAMCONSUL

B6

**Dissemination Rule:**

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SBU

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B1,1.4(D)



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**Date/DTG:** Nov 01, 2018 / 010931Z NOV 18  
**From:** AMCONSUL DUBAI  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE *ROUTINE*  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PREL, PGOV, ECON, ECIN, SA, AE  
**Captions:** SENSITIVE  
**Reference:** 18 ABU DHABI 733  
**Pass Line:** AMEMBASSY CAIRO PASS TO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA  
**Subject:** [REDACTED]

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B1

1. (C) [REDACTED]

1.4(D)  
B1

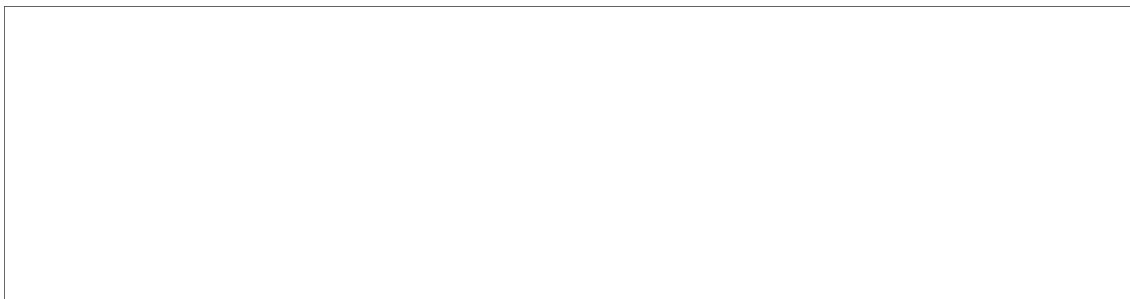
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1.4(D)  
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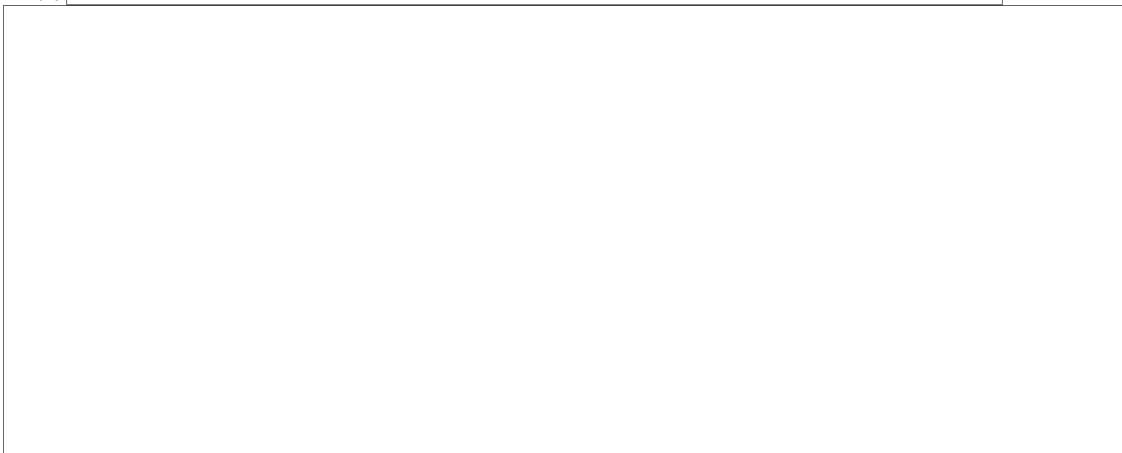
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B1

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1.4(D)  
B1

4. (S) 

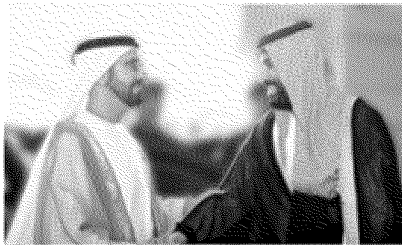


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B1

**MbR Rallies Dubai Elites to Make “Davos in the Desert” a Success**

5. (SBU) In a sign of sustained Emirati support for the Saudi Arabian Government (SAG), MbR led the UAEG delegation to the Future Investment Initiative (FII) in Riyadh on October 23-25. Dubai’s most prominent merchant families were among the delegates: DP World Chairman Sultan bin Sulayem, Executive Director of Dubai Electricity and Water Authority Saeed Al-Tayer, CEO of Mashreq Bank Abdul Aziz al-Ghurair, Dubai International Financial Center Chairman Essa Kazim, and Nakheel President Ali Rashid Lootah. Chairman of Dubai GRE mega developer Emaar, Mohammed Al Abbar, was on the FII’s 11-member advisory board and had a speaking role at the conference. According to an October 23 Reuters article, in response to a question regarding the region's dependence on money from Western sources, Alabbar drew applause when he replied: “We don’t need their money! The money is in the Middle East.”

6. (SBU) In addition, MbR was seen touring the FII conference halls with an entourage of key Dubai political figures, including his uncle and Emirates Airlines CEO, Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Minister of Cabinet Affairs Mohammed al-Gergawi, Investment Corporation of Dubai Chairman Mohamed al-Shaibani, Meraas Chairman Abdallah Al Habbai. While MbR did not take the stage at FII, he expressed his unwavering support for MbS on Twitter, posting an impassioned poem dedicated to the Saudi Crown Prince. MbR declared: “Davos in the desert is a winner,” encouraging MbS not to heed “the screaming voices” around him and praising the Crown Prince’s plans for “development and correction.”



### إلى الأخ محمد بن سلمان:

يا جبل ما يهزك ريح ... كلنا في صفك اخوانك  
معك بالتصريح والتلميح ... نبذل المجهود في شانك  
يا محمد من جفاك ايطيح ... ناصرك الله ع عدوانك  
رجح قدرك ولك ترجيح ... بالعقل ربك عطا وزانك  
خطة التطوير والتصحيح ... بيديك بين العرب شانك  
ودافس الصحراء لها تريخ ... والاقتصاد الحر ميدانك  
ما يهزمك لي يصيح ايصيح ... وعشت سالم فايز ارهانك

### To Brother, Mohammed bin Salman

#### Translation

O mountain, wind cannot move you  
We, your brothers, are all aligned with you  
With you in public and in private  
We put forth efforts for you  
O Mohamed may anyone who disregards shall fall  
May Allah grant you victory over your enemies  
Your position wins and you are the winner  
Your God gave you sanity and perfected you  
The plan for development and reform is in your hands  
And you are highly regarded amongst Arabs  
Davos in the Desert is the key to winning  
And the free economy is your domain  
Do not heed the noisemakers, let them make noise  
May you thrive and be safe, and may you win your bets

[Redacted]

1.4(D)  
B1

7. (S)

[Redacted]

1.4(D)  
B1

8. (S)

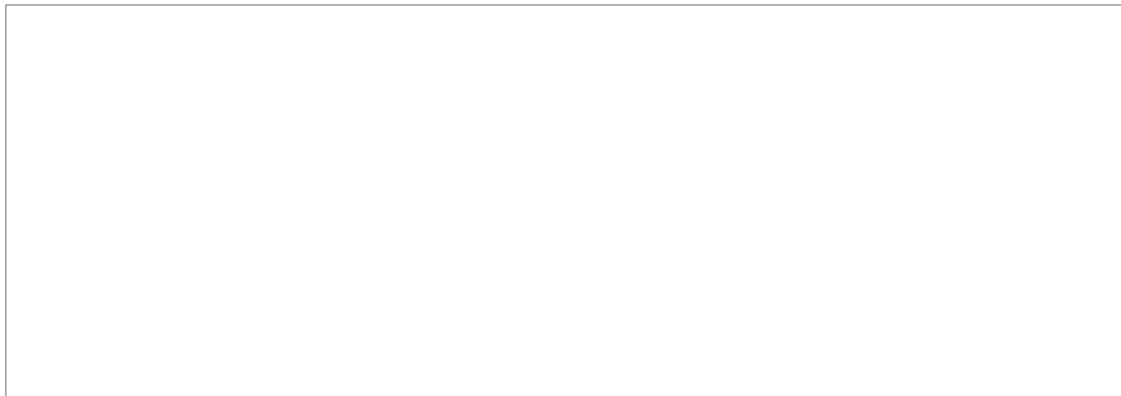
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1.4(D)  
B1



1.4(D)  
B1

9. (C)



1.4(D)  
B1

**Dubai Political Scientist & Khashoggi Friend: MbS is Here to Stay**

10. (U) In subsequent tweets, Abdullah's tone shifted sharply, becoming more conciliatory and praising MbS's efforts on the Khashoggi case, calling his FII remarks "candid and reassuring that the killers of Jamal Khashoggi will be brought to justice." Abdullah ultimately expressed absolute confidence in MbS's ability to overcome the Khashoggi controversy. On Oct 25, he wrote that MbS is "indispensable, and will come out of this more mature." "You have no choice but to deal with him," he continued; "he will be around, the king trusts him, and we all have to accept that MbS is here to stay." Other Dubai commentators were more consistent, defending Saudi Arabia and MbS from the beginning. Politically-outspoken Dhahi Khalfan, Head of General Security for Dubai and former Dubai Police Chief, unleashed a twitter storm to his 2.4 million followers regarding the Khashoggi case, defending Saudi Arabia from international criticism and railing against the involvement of Qatar and Turkey in the affair. On October 24, he also warned that the controversy would not impact Saudi Arabia's royal succession. He tweeted: "For those who believe they can change something in the leadership of the kingdom, I tell them... settle down, whether you are from the West or from an Arab country."

**Signature:** FRAYNE

**Classified By:** Name: Title: Consul General

**Derived From:** DSCG 17-1

**Declassify On:** 2043/11/01

**Drafted By:** DUBAI:

**Cleared By:** Pol:

EXEC: (Dubai)

**Approved By:** EXEC:

**Released By:** DUBAI:

**Info:** RIYADH, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE; NATSECURITY COUNCIL  
WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; ARAB COLLECTIVE ROUTINE;  
GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE ROUTINE;

B6

**XMT:** ZEN/ALEXANDRIA, AMCONSUL  
BASRAH, AMCONSUL; SANAA EMBASSY

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**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

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RELEASE IN  
PART  
B1,1.4(D),B6

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Sensitive



Portion Declassified 05/28/2019: Anthony Benesch, Senior Reviewer

**MRN:** 18 RPO DUBAI 255  
**Date/DTG:** Oct 25, 2018 / 251352Z OCT 18  
**From:** IRAN RPO DUBAI  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE *IMMEDIATE*  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PREL, PGOV, PHUM, ECON, SOCI, KISL, SA, TR, IR  
**Captions:** NOFORN, SENSITIVE  
**Reference:** A) 18 PARIS 1752  
B) 18 RPO DUBAI 103  
**Pass Line:** AMEMBASSY CAIRO PASS TO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA  
**Subject:** Iran: Regime Breaks Silence on Khashoggi Death, Iranians Consider Consequences

1. (S/NF) Summary: President Hassan Rouhani on October 24 broke Iranian government silence on the death of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, arguing that the U.S. government had provided Saudi Arabia the political cover to carry out the assassination of Khashoggi, as well as grievous human rights violations in Yemen. [REDACTED]

1.4(D)  
B1

[REDACTED] End Summary.

#### Rouhani Claims Saudi Arabia's Misadventures Facilitated by U.S. Political Cover

2. (SBU) President Hassan Rouhani on October 24 broke Iranian government silence on the death of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, arguing that the U.S. government had provided Saudi Arabia the political cover to carry out the assassination of Khashoggi. Rouhani framed the journalist's death as a litmus test for the United States that "would indicate how sensitive they are about human rights." Rouhani argued that the U.S. government had shielded Saudi Arabia's actions in Yemen. "Were it not for U.S. support, would the people of Yemen have been bombed so savagely?" he asked. Expressing support for the Turkish government, Rouhani called on Turkey to lead an "impartial and precise investigation" into Khashoggi's death. Rouhani stated that Saudi Arabia is guided by an "same ideology that has created terrorist groups like *Daesh*."

1.4(D)  
B1  
1.4(D)  
B1

3. (S/NF) [REDACTED]

[Redacted]

1.4(D)  
B1

4. (S/NF) [Redacted]  
[Redacted]

1.4(D)  
B1

5. (S/NF) [Redacted]  
[Redacted]

1.4(D)  
B1

6. (S/NF) [Redacted]  
[Redacted]

1.4(D)  
B1

7. (S/NF) [Redacted]  
[Redacted]

1.4(D)  
B1



Signature:

B6

**Classified By:**

Name:  Title: Director  
Office: Iran Regional Presence Office  
Agency: U.S. Department of State

**Derived From:**

DSCG 17-1

**Declassify On:**

2043/10/25

**Drafted By:**

RPO DUBAI:

**Cleared By:**

IRPO:Regan,

IRPO:Barnes,

IRPO:Haugen,

**Approved By:**

IRPO:

**Released By:**

RPO DUBAI:

**Info:**

BAGHDAD, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE; AMEMBASSY CONSUL ROUTINE;  
WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; DEPT TREASURY WASHINGTON  
DC ROUTINE; USCENTCOM TEL CEN MACDILL AFB FL ROUTINE;  
SECDEF WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; HOUSE NATIONAL  
SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; WASHINGTON  
DC ROUTINE; ABU DHABI, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE; IRAN  
COLLECTIVE ROUTINE; ZEN/ALEXANDRIA AMCONSUL  
XMT: BASRAH, AMCONSUL; SANAA AMEMBASSY

B6

**Dissemination Rule:**

Archive Copy

~~SECRET//NOFORN~~

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**UNCLASSIFIED**

SBU

**RELEASE IN PART  
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**MRN:** 18 DOHA 574  
**Date/DTG:** Oct 23, 2018 / 231415Z OCT 18  
**From:** AMEMBASSY DOHA  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE *ROUTINE*  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PREL, PHUM, KMDR, SA, AE, QA  
**Captions:** SENSITIVE  
**Subject:** Qatari Government Adopts Restrained, Low-key Response to Khashoggi Death

#### 1. (SBU) **Main Points.**

- The Qatari government has taken a measured public position as the Khashoggi matter has evolved. More than two days after the Saudi Government confirmed Khashoggi's death, there has been no official statement coming from Doha. The only government comments we have seen were from the Qatari MFA's spokesperson, speaking at a UK event, supporting the Turkish government's investigation and echoing recent statements from European governments calling on Riyadh to provide details on his death, while demurring on whether Khashoggi's death would affect Qatar's strained relations with Saudi Arabia.
- In contrast, Al Jazeera and other Qatari media were very critical of Riyadh's "naive" statement and "scapegoating" of Saudi intelligence officials, but mostly avoided calls the removal of the Saudi crown prince MbS.
- Some Qatar-based academics believed that the Khashoggi matter had seriously damaged the image of Saudi Arabia and MbS, and one claimed Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed (MbZ) Al Nahyan was holding back from full support of MbS in the wake of international criticism. **End Main Points.**

#### **Qatari Official Response Muted, Measured; Domestic Media Less So**

2. (SBU) The Qatari government has taken a measured approach to the Saudi government statements on the Khashoggi matter, especially compared to the constant coverage and analysis on Al-Jazeera, the Qatar-based and government-supported satellite network. Qatari MFA spokesperson Lulwa al-Khater made one of the first public comments on the Saudi announcement during a conference on October 22 at the London-based Chatham House think tank. Al-Khater voiced Qatar's faith in the Turkish probe into his death, while calling for a

transparent investigation. “We hope Jamal Khashoggi’s death will serve as a wake-up call to the rest of the world.” Al-Khater was pessimistic that the fallout from Khashoggi’s death would have much direct bearing on the current Gulf rift. By contrast, many Qataris on social media welcomed the sacking of Saudi media advisor Saud al-Qahtani, seen here as a key driver of anti-Qatar sentiment and public messaging, both through his tweets and an army of thousands of phantom social media accounts (bots).

3. (SBU) Qatari press has been very vocal in coverage and commentary on Khashoggi’s disappearance and news of his death. “Saudi Arabia admits to Khashoggi’s murder and presents a naive narrative,” read the headline in the October 21 edition of the Al-Sharq Arabic daily. The paper also focused its coverage on the apparent contradiction between the statement and Riyadh’s earlier accounts. Regarding the sacking of al-Qahtani and deputy intelligence chief Ahmad al-Assiri, Qatar’s al-Raya Arabic daily noted on October 21 that the sackings “appear to be an attempt to present a scapegoat with a view to saving Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and protecting him from direct responsibility and involvement in Khashoggi’s assassination.”

#### **Qatar-Based Academics Believe International Damage to Saudi Arabia, MbS to Endure**

4. (SBU) [redacted] told PolOff that he believed that MbS’s alliance with Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan (MbZ) would weaken, citing what he said was the absence of the UAE’s large lobbying apparatus to shield MbS from U.S. congressional criticism. “MbS will realize that his ally MbZ is unable to protect him in the international arena, though MbZ likewise will try to distance himself from MbS to avoid being seen as an accomplice, especially given accusations that one of the two private jets that transported the assassination team stopped in Abu-Dhabi en route to Riyadh.

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5. (SBU) [redacted] thought that Khashoggi’s disappearance had done serious damage to Saudi Arabia’s international image, as well as undercut Riyadh’s credibility as a plaintiff in the Quartet’s accusations against Qatar. [redacted] also was certain the scandal tarnished MbS’s image as a reformer and would prompt some Western governments to distance ties with the Saudi crown prince.

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6. (SBU) Other academic contacts did not think the Khassoggi matter would impact the Gulf rift. [redacted] thought “The Khashoggi case might make things worse for Qatar mainly because of Al-Jazeera’s coverage of the story, which drove the Saudis crazy...the Saudis never forgive and forget.” [redacted] did not think that Khashoggi’s case would have much impact on the Gulf rift, “unless it results in a leadership change in Saudi Arabia, which seems unlikely.” Finally, [redacted] noted that Qatar could capitalize on the Khashoggi case by “distancing King Salman from hardliners and those involved in Khashoggi’s death.”

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**Signature:**

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**Drafted By:**

DOHA:

**Cleared By:**

POL-ECON:

POL-ECON:

EXO:

**Approved By:**

EXEC/LEG:  (Doha)

**Released By:**

DOHA:

**Info:**

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC *ROUTINE*;  
SECDEF WASHINGTON DC *ROUTINE*; ~~LE~~ ~~RA~~ ~~BE~~  
COLLECTIVE *ROUTINE*

**XMT:**

BASRAH, AMCONSUL; SANAA EMBASSY

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**Dissemination Rule:**

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RELEASE IN  
PART  
B1,1.4(D),B6

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**MRN:** 18 CAIRO 781  
**Date/DTG:** Nov 06, 2018 / 061403Z NOV 18  
**From:** AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE *ROUTINE*  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PREL, PGOV, PHUM, ETRD, EFIN, EINV, SA, EG  
**Reference:** 18 CAIRO 769  
**Pass Line:** AMEMBASSY CAIRO PASS TO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA  
**Subject:** Egypt Stands By Saudi and Its Handling of Khashoggi Case

1. (SBU) Summary: For nearly two weeks after journalist Jamal Khashoggi was reported missing on October 2, the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) stayed silent. On October 14, it released a statement echoing Saudi messaging about the importance of waiting for the results of an official investigation and warning against using the case for political gain. On October 20, the MFA released a second statement commending King Salman's bravery in pursuing a transparent investigation. In both cases, mainstream Egyptian media supported the MFA's statements, describing them as balanced and supportive of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA). Meanwhile, critics on social media characterized the MFA statements as "an understatement" and praised Turkey's commitment to complete a full investigation. Civil society leaders subsequently shared their fear that if the KSA faced few penalties, the government of Egypt (GoE) might be further emboldened in its efforts to crack down on activists. To demonstrate Egypt's strong support for the KSA, Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry traveled to Riyadh on October 22, and Minister of Investment and International Cooperation Sahar Nasr participated in the Future Investment Initiative (FII) in Riyadh. Since then, a number of newspapers published what appeared to be coordinated pieces, hailing the "brotherly relationship" between the two countries. Egypt's stance in support of Saudi Arabia comes as no surprise given the GoE's dependence on Saudi economic largesse and concerns about backlash from Riyadh for any perceived disloyalty. End Summary.

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### **MFA Reactions to Khashoggi Case**

2. (SBU) On October 14, echoing a statement issued by Saudi Arabia's Foreign Ministry condemning "false accusations" on involvement in the disappearance of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, the Egyptian MFA issued a statement stressing the importance of revealing the truth through a transparent investigation. The statement went on to warn against attempts to exploit this issue politically based on unfounded accusations. Following the Saudi government's release of a second statement on October 20 admitting to the accidental death of Khashoggi, the Government of Egypt (GoE) issued a subsequent statement commending the results of the preliminary investigation and KSA's commitment to finding the truth. The statement went on to praise the KSA's approach, saying "the crucial, brave decisions and procedures undertaken by His Majesty the King of Saudi Arabia are consistent with his Majesty's usual policy toward respecting legal principles and enforcing justice."

### **Egyptian Media Amplifies Egypt's Support for KSA**

3. (SBU) The majority of Egyptian news programs, TV talk shows, and newspapers, most of which are owned and managed at least in part by the GoE, fully supported the MFA's statements. After the first statement on October 14, well-known TV talk show hosts like Amr Adeeb, Ahmed Moussa, and others accused Turkey, Qatar, and the Muslim Brotherhood of kidnapping and killing Khashoggi in order to frame KSA. Some in the more sensational pro-government media also made comparisons to the case of tortured and murdered Italian student Giulio Regeni, claiming that, just as they believe Regeni's death was the work of outside forces looking to frame Egypt, similar outside forces were looking to frame KSA. After the Saudi statement on October 20 confirming Khashoggi's death inside the Saudi Consulate, all of the shows focused on tangential details and conspiracy theories, like Khashoggi's fiancé and her alleged connection to Turkish intelligence, and a plot to stop Crown Prince Mohamad Bin Salman's sweeping plans for KSA. As Saudi explanations evolved, so too did Egyptian media and opinion writers.

### **Civil Society and Social Media Worry about Impact**

4. (C)

1.4(D)  
B1

### **Egyptian Officials Travel to KSA to Reaffirm Solidarity**

5. (SBU) Following the MFA's October 20 statement, FM Shoukry traveled to Riyadh on October 22 to emphasize to King Salman President Sisi's commitment to continue deepening cooperation in all fields, according to the MFA. Minister of Investment and International Cooperation Sahar Nasr canceled meetings in Cairo on October 24-25 – including one scheduled with USAID's Mission Director in Egypt – in order to participate in the Future Investment Initiative (FII) in Riyadh.

### **Closing the File, Moving On**

6. (SBU) On October 29, in what appeared to be a coordinated effort, a number of Egyptian newspapers published news items or columns proclaiming the strength and importance of the Egypt-Saudi alliance. State-owned Gomhouria newspaper published a two-page spread, with a number of similar columns and news items, with headlines such as "Egypt and Saudi Arabia, together on the path," "The rains of Cairo irrigate the date palms of Riyadh," and "Egypt's security is Saudi's

security.” State-owned Al-Akhbar carried a similar column, with a title roughly translated to “Egypt and Saudi Arabia, part and parcel.” Youm7 newspaper, owned by a company with close ties to the security services, published a piece with a religious reference in the title, roughly translated to “Egypt and Saudi Arabia, brothers in arms.” State-owned newspaper Rosa El-Yousef carried a front page column written under a pen-name, highlighting the importance of the diplomatic relationship between the two countries and the need for Egypt to stand by its long time partner.

7. (C)

1.4(D)  
B1

Signature:

B6

**Classified By:**

Name: Thomas H. Goldberger, Title: CDA  
Office: EXEC  
Agency: State

**Derived From:**

DSCG 17-1

**Declassify On:**

2028/11/06

**Drafted By:**

CAIRO:

**Cleared By:**

PD:

POL:

Management:

**Approved By:**

**Released By:**

CAIRO:

**Info:**

ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE ROUTINE;  
AMCONSUL

ZEN/ALEXANDRIA,

**XMT:**

BASRAH, AMCONSUL; SANJAMEMBASSY

B6

**Dissemination Rule:**

Archive Copy

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RELEASE IN PART  
1.4(B),B1,1.4(D),B6

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Sensitive



PORTIONS DECLASSIFIED 05/28/2019: Anthony Benesch, Senior Reviewer

**MRN:** 18 RIYADH 767  
**Date/DTG:** Oct 20, 2018 / 201236Z OCT 18  
**From:** AMEMBASSY RIYADH  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE IMMEDIATE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PHUM, PREL, KCRM, TR, SA  
**Captions:** NOFORN, SENSITIVE  
**Reference:** 18 RIYADH 381  
**Pass Line:** AMEMBASSY CAIRO PASS TO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA  
**Subject:** SAG Acknowledges Khashoggi Death in Consulate, Sacks Top Officials

1. ~~(C)~~ **Summary:** In a statement issued early October 20, the Saudi Arabian government (SAG) announced its investigative finding that Jamal Khashoggi had been killed in a "brawl" in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul. The Royal Court simultaneously issued decrees that removed several senior Saudi officials, including General Intelligence Presidency (GIP) Deputy Director Ahmad al-Asiri and Center for Social and Media Affairs at the Royal Court (CSMARC) Director Saud al-Qahtani, from their posts. Both were seen as close advisors to Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman (MbS). A separate decree also charged MbS with leading a new ministerial commission to reorganize GIP. The SAG also announced arrests of eighteen Saudi nationals in connection with Khashoggi's death and pledged an unrestricted investigation would continue, leaving the door open to additional steps in the days ahead.  
**End summary.**

#### Saudi Official Press Announce Khashoggi's Death in a "Brawl" Inside the Istanbul Consulate

2. ~~(S//NF)~~ On October 20 at 01:00 local, Saudi Press Agency (SPA) released initial findings of the Public Prosecutor's investigation into the disappearance of Jamal Khashoggi, revealing that Khashoggi died in "a quarrel and a brawl" at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul. The Public Prosecutor noted 18 Saudi nationals had been arrested and investigations are ongoing. [Note: The Public Prosecutor's office has not released the names of the 18 individuals. End note.] According to the SPA, an unnamed suspect "had traveled to Istanbul to meet with [Khashoggi] as there were indications of the possibility of his returning back to the country." The Public Prosecutor's office, led by Attorney General Saud al-Mu'ajib, commented the case "drew the attention of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at the highest levels," expressed "deep regret at the painful developments that have taken place," and vowed to "hold all those involved accountable and bring them to justice by referring them to the competent courts in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia." [REDACTED]

1.4(D)  
B1

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[REDACTED]

1.4(D)  
B1

3. (U) Coordinated statements by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and the Saudi Embassy in Washington subsequently reiterated these themes, with the MFA asserting the investigation and subsequent arrests “reflect the leadership’s keenness on the safety and security of all citizens... and its determination not just to hold the direct [culprits] and officials accountable, but also to include corrective measures preventing the occurrence of such a grave error in the future.” The MFA statement noted appreciation for “the excellent cooperation shown by the brotherly government of Turkey led by H.E. Recep Yayıp Erdogan, whose efforts and cooperation contributed significantly to the investigation of Jamal Khashoggi’s killing.”

**Decrees Sack Two Top Officials and Order MbS-led Committee to Restructure General Intelligence Presidency**

4. (U) In separate royal decrees in the King’s name, the Royal Court announced removal of the following officials: Major General and GIP Deputy Director Ahmad al-Asiri, Royal Court Media Advisor (with ministerial rank) and CSMARC Director Saud al-Qahtani, Assistant GIP Chief for Intelligence Affairs Muhammad bin Saleh al-Rumaih (the #3 GIP official and operations chief), Assistant GIP Chief for Human Resources Major General Abdullah bin Khalifa al-Shaya, and GIP Director for Security and Protection General Rashad bin Hamad al-Muhammadi. Following his removal, al-Qahtani tweeted his thanks to the King and Crown Prince for the opportunity to serve the Kingdom and pledged to remain a “loyal servant” to his nation.

5. ~~(S//NF)~~ In a decree issued early October 20 in the name of King Salman, the Royal Court ordered the formation of a ministerial commission to review and restructure the GIP. The decree noted the commission would be supervised by MbS and had a deadline of one month to report its findings. The decree added the commission would update regulations, review intelligence services’ legal authorities, and evaluate their methods and procedures. [REDACTED]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

6. (S//NF) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1.4(D)  
B1

7. (S//NF)

1.4(D)  
B1

**Signature:** STRONG

**Classified By:** Name: Martina Strong, Title: Charge d'Affaires  
Office: U.S. Embassy Riyadh  
Agency: State

**Reason:** 1.4 (b), (d)

**Declassify On:** 2043/10/20

**Drafted By:** RIYADH:POL:

**Cleared By:** A/DCM:

PAS:

POL:

**Approved By:** CDA:

**Released By:** RIYADH:

**Info:** ANKARA, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE; ISTANBUL CONSUL ROUTINE;  
CIA WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE;  
LEAGUE COLLECTIVE ROUTINE; ZEN/ALEXANDRIA CONSUL  
B6

**XMT:** BASRAH, AMCONSUL; SANAA MEMBASSY

**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

~~SECRET//NOFORN~~

Sensitive

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RELEASE IN PART  
1.4(B),B1,1.4(D)



**MRN:** 18 KUWAIT 551  
**Date/DTG:** Oct 25, 2018 / 250936Z OCT 18  
**From:** AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE IMMEDIATE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PREL, PHUM, KMDR, KW, SA  
**Captions:** SENSITIVE  
**Subject:** (C) [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

1.4(D)  
B1

1. (SBU) The official Kuwaiti reaction to the unfolding revelations surrounding the disappearance and reported death of The Washington Post journalist Jamal Khashoggi has grown into a greater defense of its ally and neighbor, although it came later than from some others in the Gulf, at some urging from the Saudi government, and with some criticism for its lateness from social media in Saudi Arabia. Following days of mounting global criticism of the Saudi government over its purported role in Khashoggi's disappearance, and rapid statements of support for King Salman and the Crown Prince from a few others in the Gulf, Kuwait's Council of Ministers issued a statement October 15 signaling its staunch support for Saudi Arabia. The Council expressed "regret for the unjust campaign against Saudi Arabia through accusations and allegations directed at it, stressing the need to wait for the results of the investigations carried out by the competent authorities on this issue" and "Kuwait's total rejection of this campaign [...]."

2. (SBU) After the October 20 Saudi announcement that Khashoggi had died during an altercation in the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul and that 18 Saudi nationals had been detained, Kuwait's Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a more pointed statement October 21 welcoming King Salman's decision "with respect to the case, which depicts the Kingdom's keenness and commitment to establish the truth and its respect for legal principles to bring to account those behind this regretful event." The Council of Ministers subsequently used its October 22 weekly statement to reiterate Kuwait's support for the "transparent" Saudi announcement and called on the international community to allow justice to take its course and refrain from interfering into "this sensitive issue until the completion of the investigation" and clarification of the facts. The statement also hailed the "remarkable role played by the brotherly Kingdom in supporting peace and stability everywhere."

3. (C) [REDACTED]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

4. (SBU) Local newspaper editors have expressed full support for Saudi Arabia while criticizing those calling for international sanctions. Social media users started a trending hashtag (Kuwait and Saudi Arabia One Country) to direct a supportive narrative. Popular Twitter news channel Shamel News announced "its stand with Saudi Arabia in view of the Kingdom's support to Kuwait and its people for decades." However, following the Saudi announcement that Khashoggi was killed in the consulate, social media users started a new hashtag ("Thank God for Kuwait's Blessing") – which has been perceived as a more nuanced and perhaps mild criticism of Saudi Arabia, conveying the belief that Kuwait's government would never hurt or assassinate one of its citizens. Kuwaiti law prohibits the publication of anything that "would cause harm to the relationships between Kuwait and other Arab or friendly countries." Prominent attorney and former MP Nasser Al-Duwailah tweeted October 23 that he had been asked to report to the authorities as part of an investigation related to a seemingly innocuous tweet he sent about the lack of criticism regarding the Khashoggi killing.

**Signature:** SILVERMAN

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<b>Classified By:</b>	Name: Lawrence R. Silverman, Title: Ambassador
<b>Reason:</b>	1.4 (b), (d)
<b>Declassify On:</b>	2028/10/25
<b>Drafted By:</b>	KUWAIT:(b) (6)
<b>Cleared By:</b>	POL:Reidy, DoS:Ward, POL: Executive:
<b>Approved By:</b>	EXE:Silverman, Lawrence R
<b>Released By:</b>	KUWAIT
<b>Info:</b>	GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE ROUTINE
<b>XMT:</b>	SANAA, AMEMBASSY

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**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

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SBU



RELEASE IN PART  
NR,B6

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**MRN:** 18 RIYADH 1322  
**Date/DTG:** Nov 27, 2018 / 271436Z NOV 18  
**From:** AMEMBASSY RIYADH  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** ECON, EINV, EINT, ECIN, ENRG, EFIN, EIND, KCYB, BTIO, EAGR, PGOV, PREL, KBCT, AL-1, GCC, 6P, SA  
**Captions:** SENSITIVE  
**Subject:** Saudi Arabia: Weekly Economic Roundup - November 26, 2018



**U.S. Embassy Riyadh – Weekly Economic Roundup  
November 26, 2018  
SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED**

*Embassy Riyadh's Economic Section welcomes your feedback and suggestions. To comment, or to be added or removed from the distro list, please contact Brenda Santiago at [SantiagoB@state.gov](mailto:SantiagoB@state.gov).*

**In This issue:**

1. **Finance Minister Forecasts 2.3 Percent Growth, Improved Deficit in 2019**
2. **Saudi Aramco Evaluating Options to Finance SABIC Purchase**
3. **Former Saudi Minister/CEO Criticizes Aramco's Planned Purchase of SABIC**
4. **Little Synergy between Cyber NGO and Saudi Government Authorities**
5. **New Labeling Requirements Could Threaten U.S. Packaged Food Exports**
6. **Pepsi Hopeful for Adjustment of GCC Excise Tax on Carbonated Beverages**

**In the News:**

- Saudi Aramco to Sign 30 Deals Worth about \$25 Billion as Part of Local Content Push
- ABB, Siemens CEOs to Visit Saudi Arabia for Supplier Conference

Upcoming Events

**Recent Cables:**

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NR

A large rectangular box with a thin black border, currently empty, representing a large area of redacted content.

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**4. (SBU) Little Synergy between Cyber NGO and Saudi Government Authorities:** Despite Saudi Arabia's need to develop its cybersecurity human capital, the non-profit Saudi Federation for Cybersecurity, Programming, and Drones (SAFCSP) and the government's National Cybersecurity Authority (NCA) are not collaborating on their mutual goal to build training academies. Faisal al-Khamisi, the newly appointed CEO of the SAFCSP, told EconOfs that his foundation works independently from the government, noting there was little government involvement in SAFCSP's Guinness World Record-breaking Hajj Hackathon in August (ref 18 Jeddah 117). He emphasized that among its various goals, the SAFCSP aims to make technology "fun for technological geeks" and promotes "sports for the mind." To this end, the Federation is building a tech hub with a university focused on cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and programming data, but with little government input. Al-Khamisi reiterated SAFCSP's desire to collaborate with Apple and other technology companies to establish an innovation incubator/accelerator, but he indicated that Apple cancelled their last conference call after the October murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi. (Econ: Vanessa Vidal-Sammoud)

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**In the News (excerpts from media reporting):**

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- U **ABB, Siemens CEOs to visit Saudi Arabia for Supplier Conference:** The chief executives of ABB and Siemens are traveling to Saudi Arabia to attend a supplier conference, just weeks after they pulled out of an investment event in the country following the death of journalist Jamal Khashoggi. ABB CEO Ulrich Spiesshofer and Joe Kaeser from Siemens will travel to Dammam for an event organized by Saudi Aramco and due to take place November 26-27. The pair had been among the executives who boycotted an earlier investment conference following the killing of Khashoggi, a journalist critical of the Saudi government. Among other attendees at the IKTVA event are Paal Kibsgaard from Schlumberger and Jeff Miller, CEO of oilfield services company Haliburton. More than two dozen top officials and executives from the United States and Europe boycotted an investment conference last month over the killing of Khashoggi inside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul (ref 18 RIYADH 1166). (*Reuters*, November 25, 2018)

**Upcoming Events:**

NR

**Signature:**

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**Drafted By:**

RIYADH:Riyadh Economic Section,  Foreign Agriculture Service - Riyadh

B6

Cleared By:

ECON [REDACTED]  
ECON: [REDACTED]

Approved By:

MGT: [REDACTED]

Released By:

RIYADH: [REDACTED]

Info:

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE;  
OF ENERGY WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; DEPT OF COMMERCE  
WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON  
DC ROUTINE; CIA WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; WASHINGTON  
DC ROUTINE

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**RELEASE IN PART NR,B6**

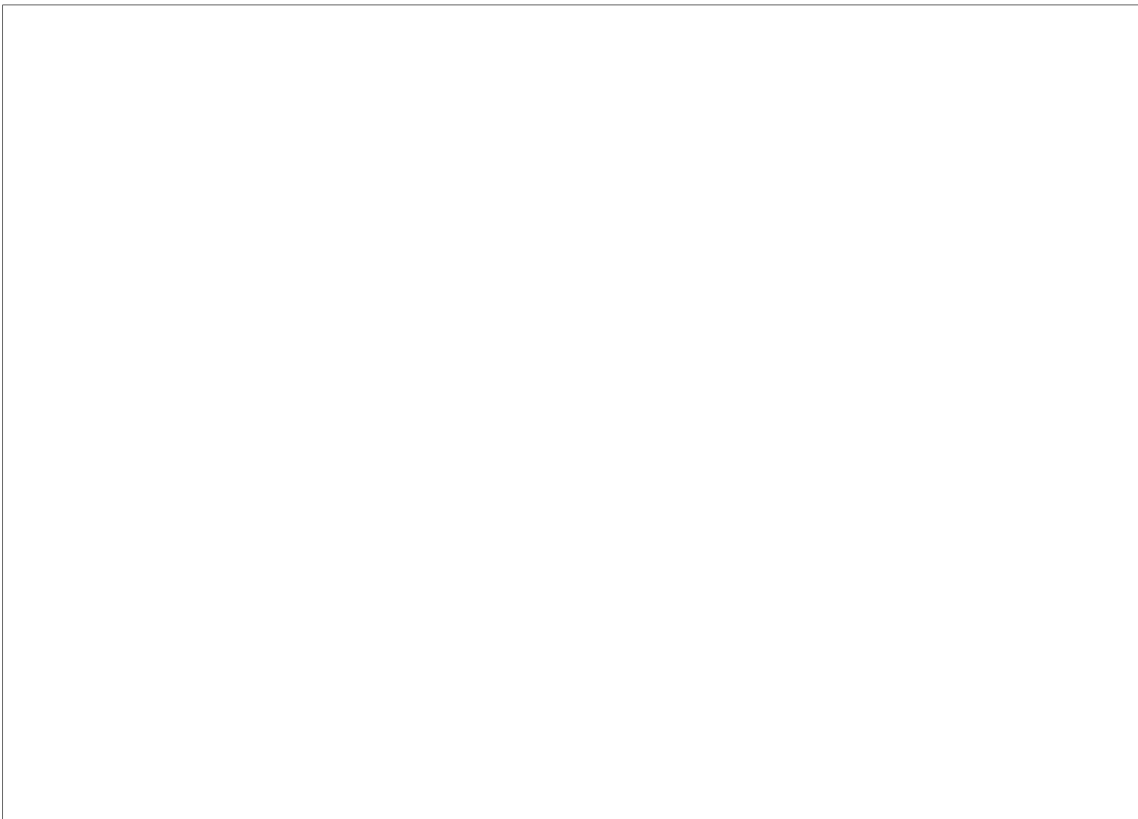


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**MRN:** [18 ANKARA 1192](#)  
**Date/DTG:** Nov 16, 2018 / 161102Z NOV 18  
**From:** AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE *ROUTINE*  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PREL, MASS, SOCI, ECON, ETRD, EP, EUN, ASEC, SA, TR  
**Captions:** SENSITIVE  
**Subject:** Turkey Daily Note for Friday, November 16, 2018

**Turkey Daily Note  
November 16, 2018**

**Key Headlines**



NR

NR

### **Saudi Statement on Khashoggi Killing Fails to Placate Turkey**

(U) Foreign Minister Cavusoglu stated on November 15 that the Saudi statement on Jamal Khashoggi's killing, including plans to seek the death penalty against five suspects, was "positive but insufficient." He noted that Khashoggi's body has not been found and reiterated Turkey's belief that the killing was "premeditated." Similarly, Turkish presidential advisor Yasin Aktay said that the Saudi comments were aimed at covering up a murder by commenting,

"They expect us to believe the killers carried this out on their own. This isn't very credible. Everything is clear as day, but there is an effort to cover it up a bit." The Saudi statement also claimed that Turkey has not responded to Saudi requests for recordings and other evidence and asked Turkey to sign a "special cooperation mechanism."

*(SBU) Comment: With Turkish officials still publicly angry over early Saudi denials of involvement in Khashoggi's disappearance – and with President Erdogan's public statements that the recording was given to the Saudis – Turkish government public criticism of Riyadh and press leaks about the case is likely to continue.*

NR

Signature:

B6

Drafted By:

ANKARA:

Cleared By:

ECON

Approved By:

POL

Released By:

ANKARA:

Info:

CIA WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE;  
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE;  
ISTANBUL, AMCONSUL ROUTINE; AMCONSUL ROUTINE;  
EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE ROUTINE  
ST PETERSBURG, AMCONSUL

XMT:

Dissemination Rule:

Archive Copy

B6

**UNCLASSIFIED**

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B2,B6

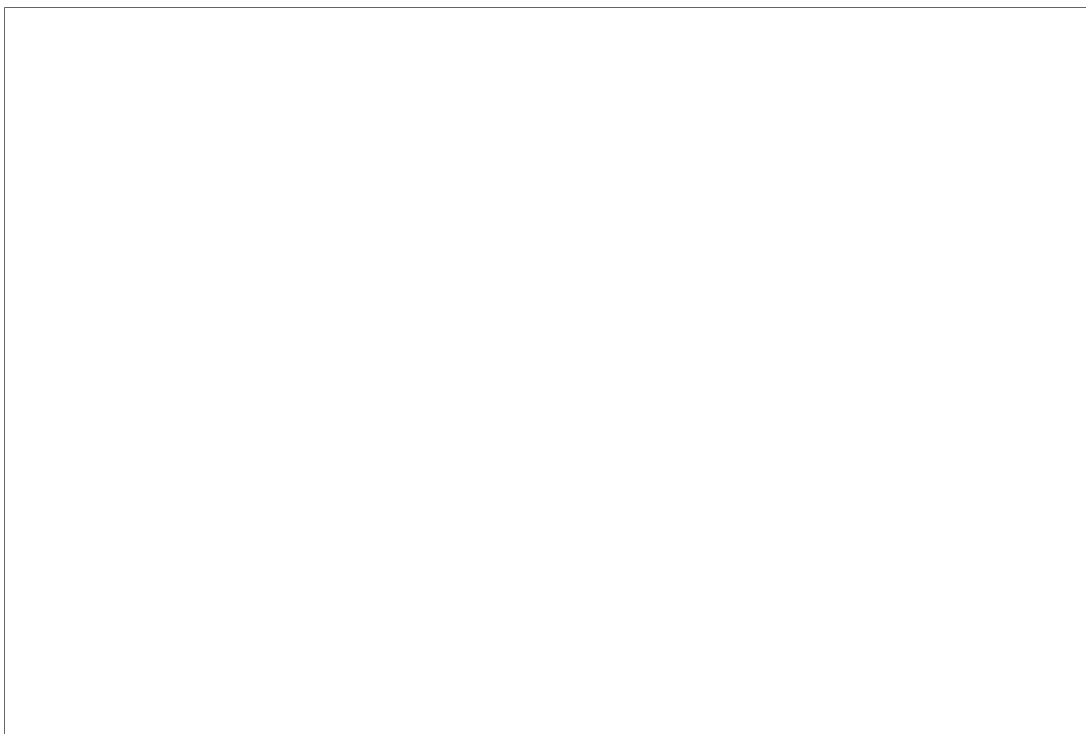
UNCLASSIFIED  
Privacy/PII



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**MRN:** 18 RIYADH 1262  
**Date/DTG:** Nov 16, 2018 / 161025Z NOV 18  
**From:** AMEMBASSY RIYADH  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE *ROUTINE*  
**For Addressee(s) Only**  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** APER, AMGT, AFSN, SA  
**Captions:** HR CHANNEL, SENSITIVE  
**Reference:** 16 STATE 134012  
**Pass Line:** FOR NEA/SCA - EX EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
FOR HR/OE/CMD - MONICA BEDI  
**Subject:** SAUDI ARABIA: LE STAFF - UNIQUE CONDITIONS OF WORK  
ALLOWANCE (UCWA)

1. (U) This is an action telegram requesting authorization to continue the Unique Conditions of Work Allowance (UCWA) for Locally Employed (LE) Staff in Saudi Arabia. Please see action request in paragraph 11.



B2  
B6

**Page Denied**

**Page Denied**



**Page Denied**

B2  
B6

11. Post strongly recommends that the authorization continue for the Unique Condition of Work Allowance at the current ten percent level.

**MINIMIZE CONSIDERED**

**Signature:** STRONG

**Drafted By:** RIYADH: [Redacted]

**Cleared By:** MGT: [Redacted]

MGT: [Redacted]

MGT: [Redacted] (Jeddah)

RSO [Redacted]

MGT/FMO: [Redacted]

**Approved By:** CONS: [Redacted]

**Released By:** RIYADH: [Redacted]

**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

B6

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Privacy/PII

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1.4(B),B1,B3 INA,1.4(D)B6

~~SECRET//NOFORN~~  
Sensitive



PORION DECLASSIFIED 05/28/2019:  
Anthony Benesch, Senior Reviewer

MRN: 18 RIYADH 731  
Date/DTG: Oct 09, 2018 / 091730Z OCT 18  
From: AMEMBASSY RIYADH  
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE *IMMEDIATE*  
E.O.: 13526  
TAGS: PGOV, PHUM, PREL, KCRM, TR, SA  
Captions: SENSITIVE, NOFORN  
Reference: 17 JEDDAH 5  
Pass Line: AMEMBASSY CAIRO PASS TO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA  
Subject: Saudi Arabia: Disappearance of Jamal Khashoggi

1. ~~(S//NF)~~ Summary: The Saudi Arabian government (SAG) continues to deny involvement in the disappearance of journalist Jamal Khashoggi. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] International journalists reported receiving a note from Saudi Ambassador in Washington Khalid bin Salman denying any Saudi wrongdoing in or connection to Khashoggi's disappearance. Saudi social media users speculated wildly about theories on Khashoggi's disappearance and the parties responsible. **End summary.**

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

#### SAG Denounces "Baseless" Allegations, Opens Consulate Doors to Media

2. (U) On October 2, media began circulating reports regarding the disappearance of prominent Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi. According to reports, Khashoggi first entered the Saudi Consulate General in Istanbul on September 28 to obtain a divorce certificate. He was asked to return to the Consulate on October 2 to complete the required paperwork, and had not been seen since. The Consulate General issued a denial of its involvement in Khashoggi's disappearance via the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) on October 4, denouncing the allegations as "baseless." The statement stressed the SAG's concern for the well-being of its citizens and pledged the SAG was "diligently" working to resolve the matter. On October 6, the Saudi Consul General permitted the Reuters news agency to tour the Consulate to back up assertions that Khashoggi was not on the premises.

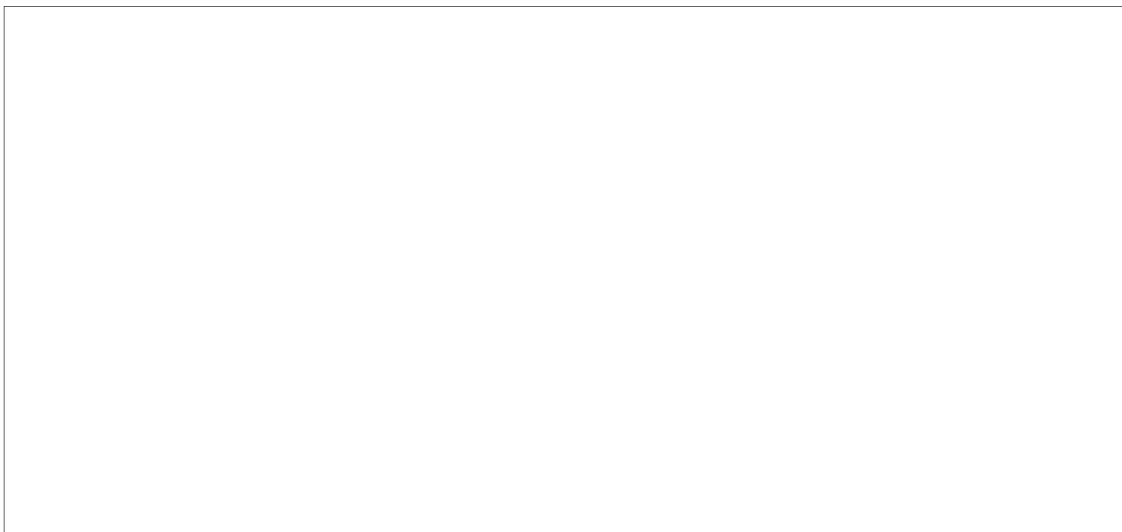
[REDACTED]

3. (S//NF) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1



#### **International Journalists Report Outreach Email by Saudi Ambassador in DC**

4. (SBU) A few International journalists reported receiving an email in the name of Saudi Ambassador to the United States (and the Crown Prince's brother) Khalid bin Salman decrying "malicious leaks and grim rumors flying around about Jamal's whereabouts and fate." The email emphasized that "reports that suggest that Jamal Khashoggi went missing in the Consulate in Istanbul or that the Kingdom's authorities have detained him or killed him are absolutely false, and baseless." The email pointed to discrepancies in statements to press attributed to Turkish authorities as indicative of false rumormongering. The email closed by noting "Jamal is a Saudi citizen whose safety and security is a top priority for the Kingdom, just as is the case with any other citizen. We will not spare any effort to locate him, just as we would if it were any other Saudi citizen."

#### **Social Media Abuzz with Khashoggi Theories and Alleged Perpetrators**

5. (SBU) Late October 2, Saudi social media users began posting reports about Khashoggi's disappearance after the Twitter account, Prisoners of Conscience/ @m3takl, tweeted, "Breaking news: Unconfirmed news about kidnapping the Saudi writer Jamal Khashoggi after disappearing since 1.00 pm today after visiting the Saudi Embassy in Istanbul to do some paper work. The Embassy however denied that he came to the place!!" @m3takl called "on everyone to participate under the hashtag #جمال\_خاشقجي اختطاف (Kidnap of Jamal Khashoggi) as a part of a campaign to press the Saudi authorities to reveal his fate, as the Saudi Embassy in Turkey denying he has entered its building today." Several other hashtags, such as #مقتل\_جمال\_خاشقجي (killing of Jamal Khashoggi), #السعودية\_يهمها\_جمال\_خاشقجي (Saudi Arabia cares for Jamal Khashoggi), #استشهاد\_جمال\_خاشقجي (martyrdom of Jamal Khashoggi), #اختطاف\_جمال\_خاشقجي (kidnapping of Jamal Khashoggi), #اين\_خاشقجي\_يا\_اردوغان (where is Khashoggi, Erdogan), #اغتيال\_السعودية\_جمال\_خاشقجي (Saudi Arabia's assassination of Jamal Khashoggi), and

#جمال\_خاشقجي\_مسرحية (the play of Jamal Khashoggi) continued the online discussion. SAG defenders began sharing theories and questions to cast doubt on the conventional narrative and deflect blame from the SAG. "Why is everyone demanding the Saudi Consulate show a video of Jamal leaving? Shouldn't the Turkish side have its own security cameras?" wrote one user. Other SAG defenders have put forth conspiracy theories blaming the Muslim Brotherhood, Qatar, Jabhat al-Nusra, and Russian agents. The Twitter account "Khashoggi's Case Commission of Fact Finding" @FFCJHashoggil was created on October 2018 to follow updates on Khashoggi's case.

#### Bio Note

6. (SBU) A graduate of Indiana State University, Jamal Khashoggi began his career in journalism in Saudi Arabia in the mid 1980s. He rose to prominence following his interviews in then-Russian-occupied Afghanistan with jihadists including Osama bin Laden and was a frequent commentator on Saudi politics in pan-Arab and international media. He served as editor-in-chief and general manager of Al Arab News and as a correspondent for London-based Al-Hayat newspaper. Khashoggi moved to Washington in 2017 after he was banned by the Royal Court in November 2016 from blogging, tweeting, and writing (ref B). The ban followed criticism by Khashoggi of then-President-elect Trump and Saudi handling of the war in Yemen. Khashoggi has written for the Washington Post Global Opinions Column since September 2017. [REDACTED]

B3 INA

<b>Signature:</b>	HENZEL	
<hr/>		
<b>Classified By:</b>	Name: Christopher Henzel, Title: Charge d'Affaires Office: U.S. Embassy Riyadh Agency: State	
<b>Reason:</b>	1.4 (b), (d)	
<b>Declassify On:</b>	2043/10/09	
<b>Drafted By:</b>	RIYADH:POL: [REDACTED];	PAS: [REDACTED]
<b>Cleared By:</b>	POL: [REDACTED]	
	PAS: [REDACTED]	
	LegAtt: [REDACTED]	
	CONS: [REDACTED]	
<b>Approved By:</b>	DCM: [REDACTED]	
<b>Released By:</b>	RIYADH: [REDACTED]	
<b>Info:</b>	CIA WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; NATSEC SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; ARABUE COLLECTIVE ROUTINE; ZEN/ALEXANDRIA, AMCONSUL SANAA, AMEMBASSY	
<b>XMT:</b>		
<hr/>		
<b>Dissemination Rule:</b>	Archive Copy	

B6

~~SECRET//NOFORN~~  
Sensitive

RELEASE IN  
PART B6

UNCLASSIFIED

SBU



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**MRN:** 18 DOHA 562  
**Date/DTG:** Oct 11, 2018 / 111407Z OCT 18  
**From:** AMEMBASSY DOHA  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE *ROUTINE*  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PREL, KPAO, KMDR, QA, SA, AE, EG, BH, GCC, PROP  
**Captions:** SENSITIVE  
**Pass Line:** PASS TO NSC FOR KFONTENROSE AND CGAMBARO  
**Subject:** Qatar: Al Jazeera Exploits Khashoggi Disappearance to Decry Saudi Arabia; Quartet Countries Retaliate with False Social Media Stories

1) (SBU) **Key Points:**

- Qatar's traditional press, including Al Jazeera Network, have prominently covered the disappearance of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, gradually ramping up criticism of Saudi Arabia for lack of transparency and possible foul play. Local press also prominently covered USG statements of concern over the Khashoggi case and have translated and reprinted international articles about Khashoggi's disappearance.
- Al Jazeera journalists held a "solidarity stand" as a symbolic show of support for Khashoggi and condemned attacks against journalists around the world.
- The Khashoggi case is the top trending social media topic in Qatar. Meanwhile, social media campaigns -- seemingly generated by Twitter users in KSA and UAE -- have launched accusations against Qatar for Khashoggi's disappearance and also spread hoax stories about the disappearance of a prominent Qatari journalist Abdullah Al-Athbah. Many here assess these stories as an attempt to distract attention away from the Khashoggi case. **End Key Points.**

*Al Jazeera Arabic Coverage*



- 2) (SBU) Since October 2, *Al Jazeera* has given prominent coverage to the disappearance of Khashoggi during its hourly live news bulletin. The incident has also been a main topic of discussion for most *Al Jazeera Arabic (AJA)* shows. *AJA*'s coverage has been highly critical of Saudi Arabia, and quickly escalated from describing the case as a "disappearance" to an "assassination" within two days. However, in recent days, *AJA*'s coverage has returned to quoting Turkish police authorities who characterized the case as a "disappearance." *AJA* also widely covered comments and official statements about the case from the White House, Congress, and the Department of State.
- 3) (SBU) On October 8, *Al Jazeera Network* held a "solidarity stand" in which journalists and staff from various divisions of the network took place in a symbolic stand with Khashoggi which condemned attacks on journalists around the world. *AJA* talk shows in the days following the disappearance focused on criticism of Saudi Arabia from the governments of the U.S., Turkey, and European countries. On October 7, Ghada Oueiss moderated "Al Hasad" ("The Harvest" - *AJA*'s evening news program) and asserted that Turkish officials deemed that Khashoggi was a victim of a pre-mediated assassination inside the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul. On October 7, Hasan Jamil's show featured journalists and security experts which analyzed the recent *Reuters* tour of the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul, with experts criticizing the tour as a Saudi media ploy that proved nothing about the disappearance case. The next day, Ghada Oueiss spoke with a Turkish professor from Istanbul and a former State Department official about Western governments' responses to the disappearance and said "the world is waiting for answers from Saudi Arabia."

#### **Quartet Country Journalists Working for *Al Jazeera***

- 4) (SBU) *AJA* has several prominent correspondents from the Quartet countries who are based in Doha. While Emiratis, Saudis, and Bahrainis generally do not work for *AJA*, there is a significant Egyptian contingent among *AJA*'s staff. Two well-known Egyptian *AJA* anchors based in Doha covered the Khashoggi disappearance on their program and/or on Twitter: Mahmoud Morad – "Sibaq al-Akhbar" (*News Race*), and Ahmed Mansour – main news anchor, *AJA*.

#### **Local Qatar Media Coverage Unsurprisingly Critical**

- 5) (U) Qatar's print media widely covered Khashoggi's disappearance and published an Arabic translation of Thomas Friedman's *New York Times* Op-Ed noting that Saudi

Arabia has been accused of killing Khashoggi. *Qatar TV* production manager and deputy managing editor of *Al Sharq* newspaper Jassim Salman tweeted that Khashoggi was assassinated and that the Turkish police will prove it soon. Political cartoons in Qatar print press also focused on Khashoggi's disappearance. Chief Editor of *Al Arab* daily Abdulla Al Athba posted numerous tweets under the hashtag جمال خاشقجي (Jamal Khashoggi) highlighting the disappearance and stating that "kidnapping Khashoggi shows the world how things are running in Saudi Arabia."

- 6) (U) Other Qatari Twitter influencers also speculated that relations between Turkey and Saudi Arabia will deteriorate and Turkey may even expel Saudi diplomats from Turkey, and vice versa in Saudi Arabia.

#### **Qatar-funded *Arabi21* Initially Breaks Story**

- 7) (SBU) On October 2, PAS Doha received reports from Arabi21 about the disappearance of Khashoggi based on an interview with his fiancé Khadija Osro. *Arabi21* is a London-based outlet that reportedly receives funding from Qatar. Following the published interview, a number of prominent Qatari Twitter users and senior *Al Jazeera* anchors, such as Faisal Al-Qassem (@kasimf – 5.14 million followers), Ghada Oueiss (@ghadaoueiss – 53,000 followers), and Ahmed Mansour (@amansouraja – 444,000 followers) discussed Osro's interview and pointed the finger at KSA for possible foul play under the hashtag اختطاف جمال خاشقجي (the disappearance of Khashoggi).

#### **False Social Media Reports on Qatari Involvement**

- 8) (SBU) Meanwhile, Twitter handles which appear to originate in KSA or the UAE, such as @QatarInterimGov, generated hashtags and online content accusing Qatar intelligence of being behind the disappearance of Khashoggi – a claim with Qatari Twitter users vehemently denied (Note: Khashoggi has had good contacts in Qatar, and at one point was reportedly offered a chance to open a TV channel in Qatar titled "Al Arab" after being denied permission in Bahrain. End Note).
- 9) (SBU) Chief Editor of *Al Arab* Al-Athbah, who has openly linked the Saudi kingdom to the disappearance of Khashoggi, appears to have been a target of fake news operations, seemingly from one of the Quartet countries to distract attention away from the disappearance of Khashoggi. On October 10, the top trending hashtag in Qatar was اختفاء عبدالله العتيبه (the disappearance of Abdulla Al-Athbah) which may have been generated by Twitter users from the Quartet countries. (Note: The vast majority of tweets using this hashtag appear to originate from Twitter users that self-identify as Saudis or who have reported their location as within KSA or UAE. End Note). Doha PAS contacted *Al Arab* newspaper and Al-Athbah himself and confirmed that Al-Athbah has not disappeared. Al-Athbah stated "I am in Doha and working from my office in *Al Arab* newspaper, doing my job as the chief editor and tweeting about true news, not fake news. We should all focus now on Khashoggi's disappearance."



Fig 1. Political Cartoon from Qatar's *Al Raya* daily newspaper

### Social Media Interest

10(U) Qatari twitter users continue to discuss the reports of the disappearance of Jamal Khashoggi under the hashtags #السعودية (Saudi Arabia) and #جمال خاشقجي (Jamal Khashoggi) and #اختطاف جمال خاشقجي (Jamal Khashoggi kidnapped), which was the top trending hashtag in Qatar.

11(U) The Charge d'Affaires tweeted the Secretary's statement in both Arabic and English and quickly reached 13,000 impressions in one day – becoming the most popular Embassy tweet of the week. The Embassy's Facebook account also posted the Secretary's statement and reached about 4,500 impressions in 24 hours.

**Signature:** GRANT

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<b>Drafted By:</b>	DOHA:	<input type="text"/>
<b>Cleared By:</b>	EXO:	<input type="text"/>
	POL-ECON:	<input type="text"/>
<b>Approved By:</b>	EXEC/LEG:	<input type="text"/> (Doha)
<b>Released By:</b>	DOHA:	<input type="text"/>
<b>Info:</b>	GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE ROUTINE	
<b>XMT:</b>	SANAA, AMEMBASSY	

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**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

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SBU

B6

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B1,1.4(D)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Sensitive

PORTION DECLASSIFIED 05/28/2019:  
Anthony Benesch, Senior Reviewer



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**MRN:** 18 JEDDAH 157  
**Date/DTG:** Nov 29, 2018 / 291254Z NOV 18  
**From:** AMCONSUL JEDDAH  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE *ROUTINE*  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PGOV, SOCI, PREL, KRG, KWMN, KISL, SA  
**Captions:** SENSITIVE  
**Reference:** 18 JEDDAH 71  
**Pass Line:** AMEMBASSY CAIRO PASS TO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA  
**Subject:** Fiqh Academy Conference Releases Resolutions Allowing Child Marriages, Banning Female Genital Mutilation, and Praising Saudi Leadership

1. ~~(C)~~ Key Points:

- The Council of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA) held its 23rd biannual session in Medina from October 28 to November 1, concluding with the issuance of thirteen resolutions, including on child marriage, female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C), and combating extremism. Several conference participants also issued statements in support of the Saudi Arabian government amidst international criticism over the Khashoggi killing.
- The IIFA held that fathers could arrange their daughter's marriages, at any age, as long as the marriage was not consummated until the child reached puberty. The resolution also indicated that a girl's lack of opposition or silence denoted acquiescence to the marriage arrangement.
- The IIFA's resolution banned FGM/C according to the four definitions set forth by the World Health Organization (WHO).
- The IIFA condemned all forms of extremism and quoted extensively from the Quran and *hadith* to urge OIC member countries to adopt sharia-compliant school curriculum based upon "human rights, tolerance, and coexistence" and to "renounce violence, extremism, terrorism, and atheism."

End Key Points.

**IIFA Support for Kingdom's Handling of Khashoggi Killing**

3. (SBU) The IIFA, composed of Muslim scholars nominated by their respective Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) countries, held its 23<sup>rd</sup> biannual session in Medina October 28-November 1. Several of the conference's participants either released or made statements supporting the SAG's handling of journalist Jamal Khashoggi's murder. Local press treated these pro-SAG individual statements as official IIFA positions, although IIFA Secretary General Dr. Abdulsalam al-Abbadi asserted Khashoggi's killing

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was not officially on the conference's agenda. One recurring theme among IIFA participant statements was the claim that recent "inflammatory or distorted" media attacks against Saudi Arabia's reputation were "an affront to Islam" and "crossed red lines" due to Saudi Arabia's status as a "symbol for Islam" and the king's role as custodian of Mecca and Medina. Although al-Abbadi noted the IIFA had not released an official statement on the Khashoggi killing, he also acknowledged that the IIFA's member states had not rejected any of the statements made during the conference.

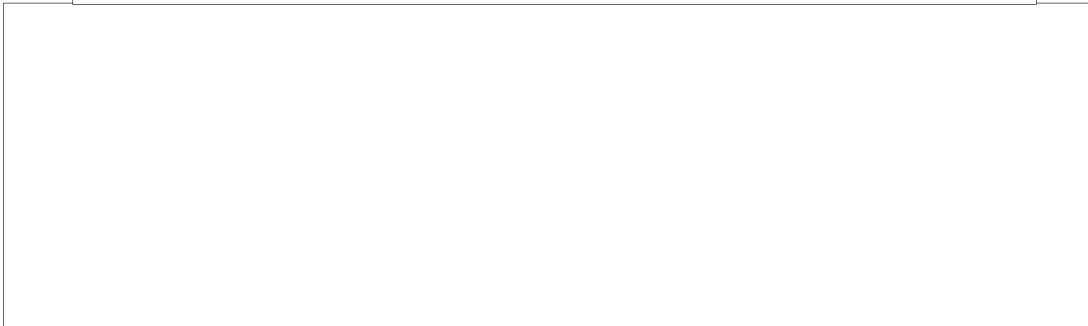
**Child Marriages: Sharia Allows for Fathers to Arrange Their Daughters' Marriages If Consummation is Postponed**

4. (SBU) Conference Resolution No. 217 (23/1) focused on "Child Marriage between the Guardian's Rights and the Girl's Interests and the Power of Wali al-Amr (the Muslim Authority) in Banning or Restricting it from a Sharia Perspective." The resolution defined a child as "a girl under the age of fifteen." According to IIFA contacts, the scholars struggled to reach a decision on the minimum age required due to "cultural concerns." Director of the IIFA's Fatwa Department Dr. Abdulqahir Qamar noted to PolEconOff in a November 12 meeting that had the minimum age been higher, many countries would "not take us seriously." Although the resolution called for banning the consummation of marriage until a female reaches puberty, defined as typically between the age of 15 and 16, the IIFA also stated that sharia did not prohibit a father from arranging his daughter's marriage earlier provided that consummation of the marriage was delayed and a judge had granted permission. The resolution also noted that once a female reached the age of 15, a father should seek his daughter's permission before arranging her marriage, but that "silence of the girl is taken as approval."

**Female Genital Mutilation: Progress Made, Despite Controversy**

5. (SBU) In Resolution 220 4/23, the IIFA adopted a resolution banning the four major types of FGM/C as defined by the World Health Organization. [Note: Post has previously discussed this topic extensively with IIFA leadership and working-level contacts to stress the USG's opposition to FGM/C and to encourage the IIFA to adopt a similar stance (reftel). End Note.] The same resolution, however, emphasized that sharia permitted "removing a tiny part of the clitoral hood" also referred to as "clitoral hood reduction surgery," which is an optional cosmetic procedure that should only be undertaken under medical supervision. The resolution pointed out that this option was not among the WHO's four definitions of FGM/C and noted that the surgery was available in Western countries but rarely practiced in the Islamic world. [Comment: One of the WHO's subdivisions of FGM/C includes the removal of the entire clitoral hood but does not include clitoral hood reduction surgery in its definition of FGM/C. End Comment.]

6. (C)



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B1



1.4(D)  
B1

**Condemnation of Extremism**

7. (SBU) In Resolution 221, 5/23, the IIFA condemned all forms of extremism and quoted extensively from the Quran and *hadith* to urge OIC member countries to adopt sharia-compliant school curriculum based upon "human rights, tolerance, and coexistence" and to "renounce violence, extremism, terrorism, and atheism." The IIFA also issued a statement for "Coexistence under Islam" quoting extensively from the "Medina Charter," an agreement that Muslims believe the Prophet Muhammad signed with various factions shortly after his arrival in Medina. The statement reiterated the principles of peaceful coexistence, respect, and tolerance. [Note: Some violent extremist Muslim groups assert that the Prophet Muhammad subsequently annulled the Medina Charter and its principles when non-Muslim factions violated the treaty, leading to their expulsion. The IIFA statement sought to counter extremists' argument. End Note.]

8. (C)



1.4(D)  
B1

**Signature:** GLIHA

**Classified By:** Name: [Redacted] Title: Consul General  
Office: Consulate General Jeddah  
Agency: U.S. Department of State

**Derived From:** DSCG 17-1

**Declassify On:** 2043/11/29

**Drafted By:** JEDDAH: [Redacted]

**Cleared By:** MGMT: [Redacted]

POL: [Redacted]

EXEC: [Redacted]

**Approved By:** EXEC: [Redacted]

**Released By:** JEDDAH: [Redacted]

**Info:** NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE;  
WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE;  
LEAGUE COLLECTIVE ROUTINE; ZEN/ALEXANDRIA CONSUL

**XMT:** BASRAH, AMCONSUL; SANAA MEMBASSY

**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

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**UNCLASSIFIED**

SBU



RELEASE IN PART  
NR,B6

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**MRN:** 18 JEDDAH 155  
**Date/DTG:** Nov 29, 2018 / 290548Z NOV 18  
**From:** AMCONSUL JEDDAH  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE *ROUTINE*  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PGOV, SOCI, PREL, KRG, KISL, KPAO, 2A, SA  
**Captions:** SENSITIVE  
**Reference:** A) 18 RIYADH 653  
B) 18 JEDDAH 5  
C) 18 RIYADH 687  
**Subject:** Messaging from the Two Holy Mosques Continues to Buttress Saudi Arabia Over Khashoggi Killing

1. (SBU) **Key Points:**

- Friday sermons from Islam's two holiest mosques in Mecca and Medina continue to support the Saudi Arabian government (SAG) by emphasizing the need for fealty to Saudi leadership and cautioning Muslims against the "enemies of Islam" who are attempting to slander the Kingdom because of its leadership in the Islamic world.
- Mecca's and Medina's Friday sermons have increasingly referred to and supported Saudi Arabia's policies over the past year, demonstrating tight SAG control over the Kingdom's religious establishment.

**End Key Points.**

**Khutbas Urging Unity, Warning Against Criticism of Saudi Arabia**

2. (SBU) During his November 23 sermon (*khutba*), Mecca Grand Mosque Iman Salih al-Humaid stressed the need for Muslims to stand behind their Muslim rulers and leadership, specifically in Saudi Arabia, and noted that failure to do so would cause Saudi Arabia to fall into chaos. [Note: Al-Humaid's niece is married to another prominent Grand Mosque imam Saleh al-Talib, who was arrested on August 7. Ref A. End Note.] Al-Humaid alleged the "enemies of Islam" were targeting Saudi Arabia because of the Kingdom's role in guarding Mecca and Medina, hoping to weaken Saudi unity. Al-Humaid also condemned those who criticize leaders, highlight rulers' mistakes, or retweet rumors and negative propaganda, saying these actions support Islam's enemies. In an apparent acknowledgement that Saudis were responsible for the murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, al-Humaid admitted "to err is to be human." However, he again stressed "real Muslims" should not focus on mistakes, but rather abide by *bay'ah* (oath of allegiance to a leader) and remember it is necessary for "true belief in Islam."

3. (SBU) In an apparent coordinated effort by the religious establishment to support the Saudi government and warn against criticism of its leadership, al-Humaid's *khutba* echoed themes of Friday sermons delivered at Mecca's Grand Mosque and the Prophet's Mosque in Medina over the past weeks. Medina's Prophet Mosque Imam Abdullah al-Buayjaan's November 15 *khutba* also focused on "enemies of Islam" targeting Saudi Arabia and its leadership. He similarly highlighted how "God chose the Kingdom to be the cradle of Islam from which Islam's light spreads." Condemning "rumor-mongering" and "dangers of the tongue," al-Buayjaan warned Muslims to neither gossip nor criticize other Muslims, even if the criticism is warranted. During his November 9 sermon, Mecca's Grand Mosque Imam Saud al-Shuraim advised Muslims to stay silent even during "crises or calamities" because "the tongue" could lead to political conflicts and cause Muslims "to be thrown into Hell." He praised the "beauty and spirituality of silence," saying people's desire to speak out was one of the worst ills plaguing the world. [Note: These *khutba* reflect some factions of Salafist thought which emphasize disengagement from public controversy and stress fealty to a leader for the sake of stability and the greater good. Ref B. End Note.]

#### Social Media Reaction Positive

4. (SBU) Social media reaction to these *khutba* has been positive. As is typical, pro-government Twitter accounts disseminated videos of the sermons. There was minimal negative feedback on Twitter, mostly criticizing Saudi Arabia for using the two holy mosques to politicize an issue and pointing out the Kingdom's hypocrisy in calling for peace while being involved in the Yemen conflict. Much of the negative feedback, however, appears to have originated from outside of the Kingdom.

5. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] End Comment.

NR

Signature: [REDACTED]

B6

Drafted By:

JEDDAH [REDACTED]

Cleared By:

MGMT: [REDACTED]

POL [REDACTED]

PAS: [REDACTED]

EXEC [REDACTED]

PAS [REDACTED]

EXEC: [REDACTED]

Approved By:

JEDDAH [REDACTED]

Released By:

Info:

CIA WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE;  
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE;  
LEAGUE COLLECTIVE ROUTINE

XMT:

BASRAH, AMCONSUL; SANAA EMBASSY

B6



**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

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SBU

**UNCLASSIFIED**  
SBU



RELEASE IN PART NR,B6

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**MRN:** 18 VIENNA 1364  
**Date/DTG:** Nov 23, 2018 / 231420Z NOV 18  
**From:** AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PREL, MCAP, PHUM, OEXC, ASEC, KRGA, SMIG, EINV, EFIN, ETRD, ELAB, EUN, NATO, PFP, 3E, GB, SA, IL, HU, AT  
**Captions:** SENSITIVE  
**Subject:** Vienna Weekly Report, November 19-23, 2018

Politics

NR

Vienna Joins Berlin in Implementing Entry-Ban for 18 Saudi Suspects over Khashoggi Killing

NR

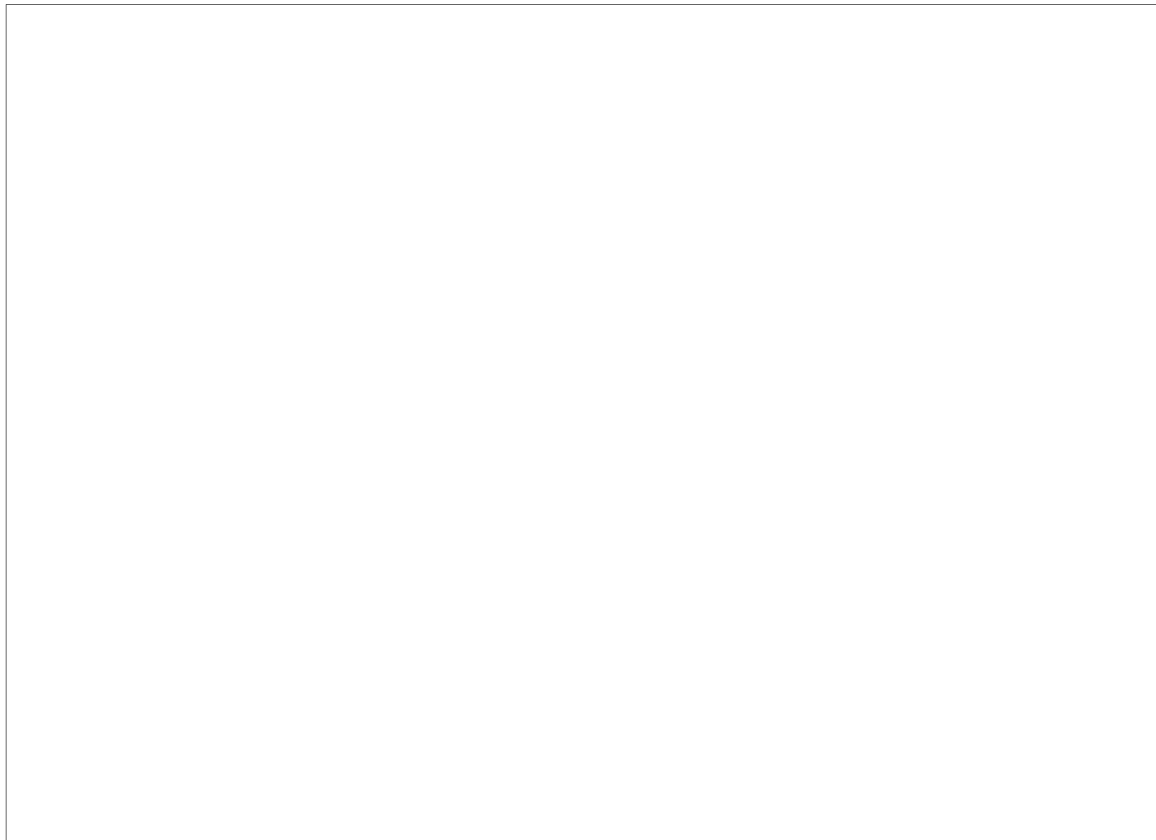
Economics

NR

**Politics**

NR

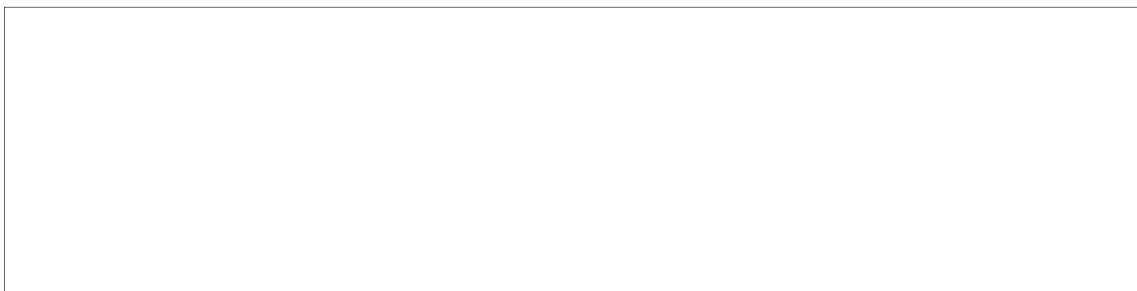
NR



**Vienna Joins Berlin in Implementing Entry-Ban for 18 Saudi Suspects over Khashoggi Killing**

(SBU) Austria will join Germany in implementing a Schengen-wide entry ban against 18 Saudi nationals believed to be involved in the Khashoggi murder, the Austrian MFA said November 20. Speaking on the margins of the November 19 FAC meeting in Brussels, FM Kneissl argued that the case “had generated a certain momentum which may open a window for a ceasefire in Yemen.” *Kneissl has called the killing of the Saudi journalist “a barbaric murder” and has demanded full clarification.*

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**Economics**

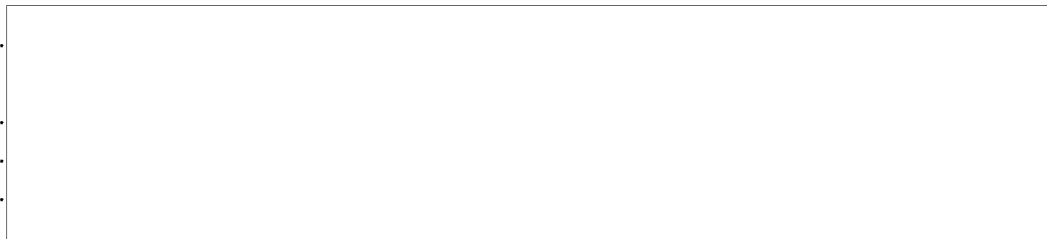
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**Upcoming Events:**

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Signature:

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Drafted By:

VIENNA:

Cleared By:

POL-ECON

Approved By:

POL-ECON

Released By:

VIENNA

Info:

DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; OF DEPT  
TREASURY WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; WASHINGTON  
DC ROUTINE; C WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; HOUSE  
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE;  
EU COLLECTIVE ROUTINE; EUROPEAN  
COLLECTIVE ROUTINE  
ST PETERSBURG, AMCONSUL

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XMT:

Dissemination Rule:

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SBU



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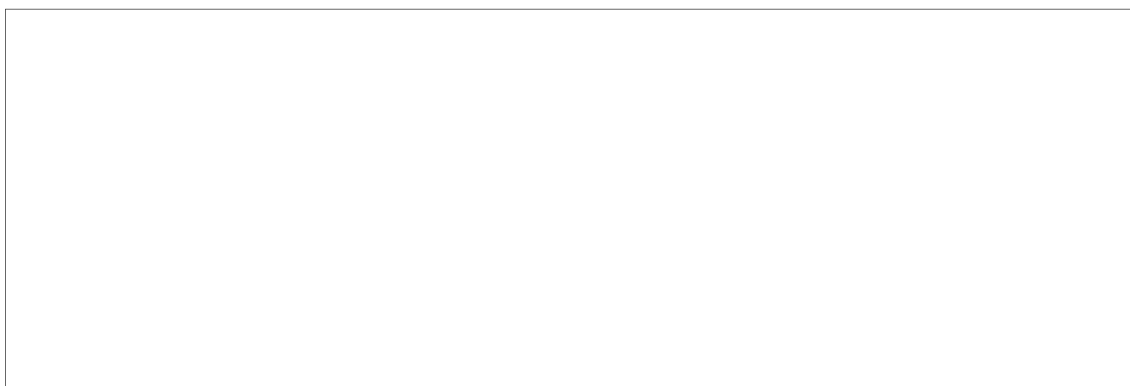
RELEASE IN PART NR,B6

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**MRN:** 18 ANKARA 1212  
**Date/DTG:** Nov 21, 2018 / 211202Z NOV 18  
**From:** AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE *ROUTINE*  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** ECON, PGOV, PREL, PHUM, PINR, PTER, NATO, ASEC, AT, SY, TR, SA, IR  
**Captions:** SENSITIVE  
**Subject:** Turkey Daily Note: Wednesday, November 21, 2018

**Turkey Daily Note  
November 21, 2018**

**Key Headlines**



NR

**(U) CAVUSOGLU: TURKEY MAY SEEK UN INQUIRY INTO KHASHOGGI MURDER**

(U) Speaking to journalists after his November 20 meeting with Secretary Pompeo, FM Cavusoglu said the continuing lack of cooperation from the Saudi government may lead Turkey to seek a UN inquiry into Khashoggi's murder. This follows the November 19 publication of alleged quotes of Khashoggi's last moments reportedly citing Turkish security sources.



NR

Ankara at the Deputy FM level.



NR

**Signature:**

**Drafted By:**

EXBS ANKARA:

**Cleared By:**

ECON:

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**Approved By:**

POL [REDACTED]

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**Released By:**

ANKARA [REDACTED]

**Info:**

CIA WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE;  
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE;  
ISTANBUL, AMCONSUL ROUTINE; AMCONSUL ROUTINE;  
EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE ROUTINE  
ST PETERSBURG, AMCONSUL

**XMT:**

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**Dissemination Rule:**

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PART B1,1.4(D),  
1.4(B), B6

~~SECRET//NOFORN~~



**MRN:** 18 AMEMBASSY JERUSALEM 319  
**Date/DTG:** Nov 28, 2018 / 281503Z NOV 18  
**From:** AMEMBASSY JERUSALEM  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE *ROUTINE*  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PREL, KPAL, AE, BH, OM, QA, SA, IL  
**Captions:** NOFORN  
**Reference:** A) 18 MUSCAT 339  
B) 18 AMCONSUL JERUSALEM 293  
**Subject:** Israel:

1. (C)

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

2. (C)

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

[Redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

[Redacted]

3. (S/NF) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
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4. (S/NF) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

1.4(B)  
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5. (S/NF) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
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6. (S/NF) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
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7. (S/NF) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

[REDACTED]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

8. (S/NF) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
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9. (S/NF) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

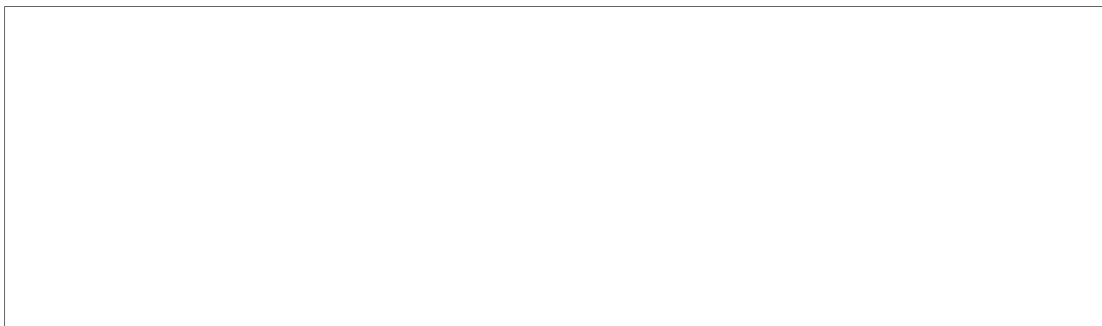
1.4(B)  
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10. (SBU) While Regev noted that Israel's relations with the Saudis are the least likely to see the light of day in the near future, there have been clear indications of the strategic value both countries place on their quiet cooperation. Following the Khashoggi killing, Netanyahu publicly condemned the murder, but emphasized the paramount importance of Saudi stability given the threat Iran poses to the region. On the commercial front, in March 2018, Riyadh granted overflight rights to a new Air India flight between New Delhi and Tel Aviv, a significant concession as Israel-bound flights have historically been forced to fly a costly circuitous route to avoid Saudi airspace.

[REDACTED]

11. (S/NF) [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1



1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

**Signature:** Friedman

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**Classified By:** Name: David Friedman, Title: Ambassador  
Office: EXEC  
Agency: STATE

**Derived From:** DSCG 17-1

**Declassify On:** 2043/11/28

**Drafted By:** JERUSALEM:

**Cleared By:**

EXEC:

**Approved By:**

EXEC:

**Released By:**

JERUSALEM:

**Info:**

JERUSALEM, AMCONSUL *ROUTINE*

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**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
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B1,1.4(D),B6

**MRN:** 18 ABU DHABI 753  
**Date/DTG:** Oct 22, 2018 / 221154Z OCT 18  
**From:** AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE *ROUTINE*  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PREL, PHUM, AE, SA, KMDR  
**Captions:** SENSITIVE  
**Reference:** 18 ABU DHABI 733  
**Subject:** UAE: Support for Saudi Continues After KSA Admits Journalist  
Khashoggi is Dead

PORTIONS DECLASSIFIED 05/28/2019:  
Anthony Benesch, Senior Reviewer

1. (C) Key Points and Comment:

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1.4(D)  
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2. (C)

1.4(D)  
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(SBU) Foreign Minister Finally Speaks and Official Press Continues to Defend Saudi



3. (C)

1.4(D)

1.4(D)

B1

4. (SBU) On October 22, Arabic press across the UAE featured Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubair's statement regarding the ongoing search for Khashoggi's body and admitting that the event was a "tremendous mistake."

(C)

1.4(D)

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5. (C)

1.4(D)

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(C)

1.4(D)

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6. ~~(C)~~ An October 20 article in *The National* noted international skepticism about the official Saudi explanation for Khashoggi's death. In the same piece, *The National* reported UAE support for Saudi's handling of the investigation and characterized President Trump's statement that this was "an important first step" as an endorsement of Saudi Arabia's story. On October 22, Abu Dhabi-based online publication *24.ae* covered Secretary Mnuchin's comments about the United States' "long-term relationship with Saudi Arabia."

(C)

1.4(D)

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7. (SBU) On October 20, Abu Dhabi-based English language newspaper *The National* published a rather balanced article entitled "Jamal Khashoggi Obituary," in which friends and colleagues commented on Khashoggi's life. The article stated that "journalist Jamal Khashoggi always insisted he was not a Saudi dissident but a patriot... but Khashoggi's love of Saudi was not enough to keep him from a terrible death inside the kingdom's consulate in Istanbul." Notably, when discussing Khashoggi's interaction with al Qaeda and Osama bin Laden, it was in an even-handed approach, which included both the allegations of his connections to the Muslim Brotherhood and the context of his reporting as a foreign correspondent and his arguments that the Arab world should engage with political Islam instead of shying away from regional and domestic issues. The end of the article noted that Khashoggi was survived by his

fiancée Hatice Cengiz, notable because some media and social media figures had previously questioned whether she was really his fiancée.

**(SBU) Media Continues to Blame Qatar and Defend Saudi Arabia**

8. (C) A number of columns and editorials did not miss the opportunity to accuse Qatar of interfering in Saudi affairs. An October 21 column in *Al-Ain News Portal* questioned Qatar's double standards that has insulted Saudi Arabia; while criticizing outstanding cases of alleged extrajudicial killings related to Doha. Government-aligned Abu Dhabi-based Arabic newspaper *Al Ittihad* reported that Director of Abu Dhabi Media Company Dr. Ali Tamim blamed Qatar's leadership, the "Two Hamads," and the Muslim Brotherhood for the "media mess" surrounding Khashoggi's case.

9. (C) A number of editorials that appeared in the UAE press on October 21 discussed the guiding role Saudi Arabia plays as a protector of justice and slammed attempts to use Khashoggi's case to defame Saudi Arabia. For example, in its weekly op-ed, the quasi-governmental research center Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research (ECSSR) commended MbS' bold and courageous directives to remove a number of state officials. The op-ed said that "these measures indicate that Saudi Arabia always sides with the truth, stemming from its established constants and values to achieve rule of law and justice for all."

**(SBU) #UAE\_Saudi Trend Continues on Twitter**

10. (SBU) #UAE\_Saudi\_Always\_Together (Arabic) continued to trend on social media and prominent social media figures continued to weigh in. Imam of the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque and public media figure Sheikh Waseem Yousef, a naturalized Emirati, tweeted on October 20 that "the enemies of Saudi Arabia are not only individuals, or parties, they are a number of countries put together. We must all stand by Saudi Arabia."

**Signature:** BONDY

**Classified By:** Name: Steve Bondy, Title: Charge d'Affaires

**Derived From:** DSCG 17-1

**Declassify On:** 2043/10/22

**Drafted By:** ABU DHABI POL: [REDACTED]

**Cleared By:** PD: [REDACTED]

POL: [REDACTED]

**Approved By:** A/DCM: [REDACTED]

**Released By:** ABU DHABI: [REDACTED]

**Info:** NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE;  
WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; COOPERATION COUNCIL  
COLLECTIVE ROUTINE

**XMT:** SANAA, AMEMBASSY

**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

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RELEASE IN PART  
1.4(B),B1,1.4(D), B6

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
Sensitive



**MRN:** 18 RIYADH 771  
**Date/DTG:** Oct 22, 2018 / 221057Z OCT 18  
**From:** AMEMBASSY RIYADH  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE *IMMEDIATE*  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PHUM, PREL, PROP, TR, QA, SA  
**Captions:** SENSITIVE  
**Reference:** 19 RIYADH 767  
**Pass Line:** AMEMBASSY CAIRO PASS TO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA  
**Subject:** Saudi Messaging Machine in High Gear on Khashoggi Narrative

1. (C//REL TO USA, FVEY) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1.4(D)  
B1

**FM al-Jubeir Briefs Heads of Diplomatic Missions on Khashoggi Case**

2. (C//REL TO USA, FVEY) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

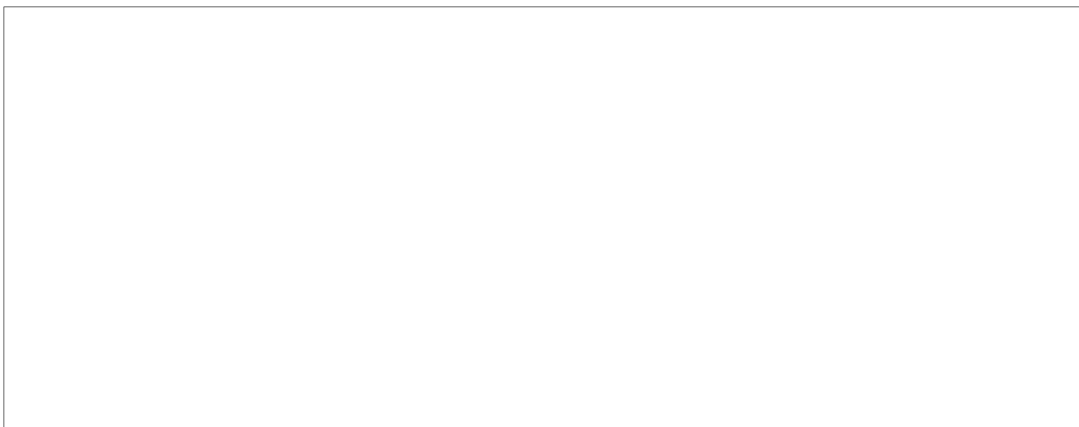
1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

3. (SBU) Asked by a Western diplomat about the possibility of an independent, UN-led investigation into Khashoggi's death, FM al-Jubeir replied this was not necessary; Saudi and Turkish authorities were working cooperatively and making progress. FM al-Jubeir did not provide any information as to what the original mandate of the individuals involved in Khashoggi's death might have been. Al-Jubeir did not address details Reuters reported October 21 (sourced to a senior Saudi official) about the mission of the Saudi team that confronted Khashoggi in the Istanbul consulate, the precise circumstances of Khashoggi's death, or the disposition of his remains. In a separate October 21 statement laying out SAG concern with ensuring a full investigation and accountability for Khashoggi's killing, the MFA noted "the Kingdom also appreciates the wise position of those countries that are waiting for the results of the investigation and avoiding speculation and allegations until the investigation is completed."

1.4(D)  
B1

4. (C//REL TO USA, FVEY)



1.4(D)  
B1

5. (C//REL TO USA, FVEY)



1.4(D)  
B1

**Signature:** STRONG

**Classified By:** Name: Martina Strong, Title: Charge d'Affaires  
Office: U.S. Embassy Riyadh  
Agency: State

**Reason:** 1.4 (b), (d)

**Declassify On:** 2043/10/22

**Drafted By:** RIYADH:POL: [redacted]

**Cleared By:** A/DCM: [redacted]

PAS: [redacted]

**Approved By:** CDA: [redacted]

**Released By:** RIYADH: [redacted]

**Info:** ANKARA, AMEMBASSY IMMEDIATE; WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE;  
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE;  
LEAGUE COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE; ZEN/ALEXANDRIA CONSUL

**XMT:** BASRAH, AMCONSUL; SANAA, AMEMBASSY

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**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

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SBU

**RELEASE IN PART B6**



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**MRN:** 18 RIYADH 1166  
**Date/DTG:** Oct 25, 2018 / 251413Z OCT 18  
**From:** AMEMBASSY RIYADH  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE *ROUTINE*  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** ECON, EINT, EINV, EFIN, ENRG, ECIN, ELAB, BTIO, PGOV, PREL, PHUM, KWMN, TSPL, TRGY, 2M, GCC, 6P, TR, QA, SA  
**Captions:** SENSITIVE  
**Subject:** Davos in the Desert - MbS Calls for Justice, Touts Economic Success at Eastward-Looking FII

*Note: Embassy Riyadh staff did not attend the FII, per Department guidance. This report is comprised of information from contacts, the conference's livestream feed, press releases, and media reports.*

1. (SBU) **Summary:** Despite the long shadow cast by the international furor over Jamal Khashoggi's death, the Saudi Arabian government (SAG) soldiered on with its Future Investment Initiative (FII) in Riyadh October 23-25, designed to bring together global economic leaders and showcase investment opportunities in the Kingdom. Marked by a wave of high-profile cancellations of sponsors, speakers, and attendees, Saudi leaders filled seats at the Ritz-Carlton by reaching out to friendly regional countries to urge them, with some apparent success, to organize large, last-minute delegations. Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MbS) told FII attendees that Khashoggi's death was "a heinous crime that cannot be justified," and said the perpetrators would be brought to justice. He also touted the Kingdom's strong economic performance, claimed the Middle East was entering a 30-year renaissance, and said his "personal war" is to put the region at the "forefront of the world." During the FII, a long list of "mega deals" was announced totaling \$50 billion in the energy, mining, and transportation sectors; several deals were with major U.S. companies. China and Russia featured prominently, with a session on the shift of investments from "west to east," and the frequent use of Chinese and Russian speakers and panelists. While there was standing room only at both the opening and during MbS' remarks, contacts and observers noted that, in contrast to last year, Saudis significantly outnumbered foreigners. **End Summary.**

#### **Acknowledgment of Khashoggi's Death and Need for Justice, Then Calls to Move On**

2. (SBU) Though widely expected to open the conference, MbS first appeared during the afternoon of the FII's opening day, October 23. Contacts told EconOffs that a number of

attendees left their seats in the auditorium at Riyadh's Ritz-Carlton to greet MbS as he entered the room. The Crown Prince had a broad smile and stopped to take several selfies with conference attendees, while receiving a standing ovation. When MbS appeared the following day (October 24) to participate in a Q&A session, he was warmly welcomed again. Press reports indicated that cheers could be heard in the auditorium as he entered. In his remarks during the joint Q&A session with Bahrain's Crown Prince Sheikh Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa and Lebanon's Prime Minister Saad Al-Hariri, MbS first addressed Jamal Khashoggi's death, saying the crime was "painful to all Saudis and every human in the world," and claiming that "all due legal processes" were being carried out to "find the truth and bring the perpetrators to justice." He denied any tensions with Turkey, emphasizing that the efforts by "many" to drive a wedge between Saudi Arabia and Turkey would not succeed. MbS said that Saudi Arabia's security institutions needed to be restructured, just as the SAG had significantly restructured the economy. [Note: MbS' remarks were preceded by a highly publicized call between MbS and Turkey's President Erdogan, their first conversation since Khashoggi's killing. End Note.]

3. (SBU) Earlier in the conference, Lubna Olayan, the newly named Chairperson of SABB Bank and one of the wealthiest and most prominent women in the Middle East, spoke briefly about Khashoggi's death, expressing support for Saudi leadership. She said "the terrible acts reported in recent weeks are alien to our culture and our DNA," and voiced confidence that the Saudi leaders and government would ensure the "truth [emerges]." Khalid al-Falih, Minister of Energy, Industry, and Mineral Resources, said these were "difficult days for us in Saudi Arabia," and that the Kingdom was going through a crisis resulting from the "very regrettable and abhorrent incident that took place in Turkey." Al-Falih also said that while "no one...can justify or explain" Khashoggi's death, he emphasized that the Kingdom is in the "midst of a historic transformation of unprecedented proportions...(and) that will not be stopped." Amin Nasser, CEO of Saudi Aramco, told CNN that "everybody is sorry for the death (of Khashoggi)," but quickly followed by saying "...at the end of the day, we need to move beyond it."

### **MbS Points to Economic Success, Claims Middle East Entering 30-Year Renaissance**

4. (SBU) Citing Dubai as the model of success, MbS said its ruler Sheikh Mohammed Al Maktoum "set the example" for how the Middle East can succeed economically. [Note: The Sheikh attended the FII and was seated in the front row during MbS' remarks. End Note.] By doing so, he said, the Sheikh had encouraged all the countries of the region to achieve their goals. MbS pointed to the successful reforms in Saudi Arabia, highlighting strong economic growth and government revenues, improvements unemployment, development of new economic sectors, and growth of the Public Investment Fund, which he said could increase from \$315 billion today to \$500 billion by the end of 2019. The Crown Prince also mentioned economic successes in Bahrain, Kuwait, Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan – and even Qatar, which he said has a strong economy. MbS closed by saying it was his "personal war" to change the Middle East and put it at the "forefront of the world." Several contacts who attended the conference told Embassy Officers that the audience, comprised of many Saudi and Middle Eastern attendees, responded with strong emotion and pride to MbS' remarks. MbS' claim that the region was entering a 30-year renaissance and would be the "New Europe" brought a standing ovation from



the overflowing auditorium.

### **Saudis Scramble to Keep FII On-Course after High-Profile Cancellations**

5. (SBU) In the final tally, at least 68 high-profile leaders from government, business, finance, and the media publicly cancelled their participation in the FII, due to concerns over Jamal Khashoggi's death. In the days leading up to the conference, Saudi leaders were pushing for business and government leaders to confirm their attendance. According to a senior executive with a Fortune 500 American electrical products manufacturer, the company's CEO was contacted less than a week before the FII by a senior Saudi businessperson to personally invite him to attend, while insisting that only the CEO could participate. In response to a question from the media about companies cancelling, Saudi Aramco CEO Amin Nasser said that "the (companies) we're doing business with are here." Observers noted that a number of gulf country leaders issued public statements expressing support for Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and the FII ahead of the conference, with very similar talking points.

6. (SBU) Despite these efforts, high-profile cancellations continued. On the opening day of the conference, CEO of SoftBank Masayoshi Son cancelled his speech and withdrew from the conference. [Note: Given the timing, this appears to have been a difficult decision for the CEO, as Saudi Arabia's Public investment Fund (PIF) is the largest investor in SoftBank's \$100 billion Vision Fund; the PIF has committed \$45 billion to the fund. End Note.] *Bloomberg* reported on the day of the opening that Siemens CEO Joe Kaeser also withdrew from the conference, during which he was scheduled to sign a power-plant contract worth up to \$20 billion. And Embassy contacts who attended the conference noted that programs were neither distributed nor communicated, and that all details on the FII's website, which had earlier been successfully hacked (see paragraph 12), had been removed the morning the conference opened.

7. (SBU) Some companies that attended the FII publicly defended their decision. The CEO of French energy company Total defended his participation, saying that "we see what partnership means when you have difficult times; this is when you really strengthen a partnership." Total signed several agreements during the conference, including construction of a petrochemical plant and development of retail gasoline stations. *The Washington Post* reported that in its interviews at the conference with American companies, executives said although they were "jolted by Khashoggi's gruesome killing," they emphasized that "business ties between the United States and Saudi Arabia are far too valuable to be disrupted by it," and that although the Khashoggi case was "shocking...ultimately it would be only a hiccup in the business world." A senior Vice President with Singapore's sovereign wealth fund told EconOffs that she decided to attend primarily to assess the fallout from Khashoggi's death.

### **\$50 Billion Flurry of So-Called "Mega Deals" Include American Companies**

8. (SBU) For nearly two hours, a long list of so-called "mega deals" was announced at the FII, representing a purported \$50 billion in the energy, mining, and transportation sectors. U.S. companies were among those signing MOUs and commercial agreements, including Halliburton, Baker Hughes GE, Schlumberger, Air Products and Chemicals, FlexSteel Pipelines, National Oilwell Varco, and Greenbrier Companies. Two-thirds of the stated value of the deals

(\$34 billion) were signed by Saudi Aramco, and include new petrochemical plants, retail gasoline stations, refineries, a gasification power project, manufacture of onshore oil rigs, and new drilling equipment and installation. According to Saudi Aramco, the agreements – with firms from France, China, United States, Japan, UAE, United Kingdom, South Korea, and India – will support the company's downstream, offshore, and engineering business units. Other deals announced promised to develop a wide-range of projects, including copper mines, a high speed railway, maritime industries, and a \$10.6 billion railway land-bridge to connect the Red Sea and Arabian Gulf ports, among others. In support of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 strategy, FII moderators announced that several of these projects will involve localization, in particular an expansion of the manufacturing base in Saudi Arabia.

### **Deliberate Message that Saudi Arabia is Looking Eastward for Investment**

9. (SBU) The Saudi Arabian government (SAG) sent very clear messages at the FII that it is looking “eastward” for foreign direct investment. Despite the number of western companies signing agreements (see para 5) with Saudi Aramco and SAG ministries, much of the conference featured China and Russia. The FII's opening panel included Yasir al-Rumayyan, head of the FII's sponsor PIF, as well as Kirill Dmitriev, CEO of Russian Direct Investment Fund, the country's sovereign wealth fund. Dmitriev noted that more than 20 executives from Russian banks and energy companies attended the FII, and said that in the last three years, a number of joint Russian-Saudi projects had been launched with a value of \$10 billion. In an interview with CNBC, Dmitriev said that Khashoggi's death should be viewed as “separate” from Saudi leaders. Dmitriev met with Crown Prince MbS on the margins of the FII to discuss bilateral investment and other economic issues, according to the Saudi Press Agency. Other prominent Russian attendees included Sergey Gorkov, Russia's Deputy Minister of Economic Development, and Andrey Kostin, President and Chairman of VTB Bank.

10. (SBU) A session during the FII's opening day focused on the “geographic shift of investments from west to east,” and included panelists from the UAE, Bank of China Intl/Hong Kong, Softbank, and DP World UAE. Panelists claimed that investments from Asia are “catching up” to the United States, with Asia recording a 117 percent increase in total venture capital funding in 2017. The Saudi moderator noted that investors in the East have a “better understanding” of Saudi Arabia's characteristics and goals. Like their Russian counterparts, Chinese speakers and panelists featured prominently. In addition, the Minister of Energy, Industry, and Mineral Resources signed an agreement with Chinese company Panasia to develop a petrochemicals complex in Jizan, Saudi Arabia.

### **Conference Atmospherics**

11. (SBU) The conference opened with a slick, multi-media presentation with loud music, lasers, and videos on large, high-definition screens. A voiceover said “the next generation of game changers is here, in this room,” and mentioned previous “dreamers” such as Marie Curie, Thomas Edison, and Mark Zuckerberg. Under every seat in the auditorium was a large hardcover book entitled “A Blueprint for the Twenty Second Century.” Contacts told EconOffs that, unlike last year's premiere FII, at this year's event Saudis significantly outnumbered foreigners. A *Bloomberg* reporter noted that as the first day progressed, the main auditorium

was “slowly deserted.” He posted a short video of a nearly-empty auditorium, saying it showed the impact of many foreign investors not attending. Reflecting the increasing importance the Kingdom places on women in the workforce, a number of female moderators and panelists participated, such as Nadine Hani from *Al Arabiya*.

#### FII Website Hacked, Anti-Regime Photo and Message Posted

12. (SBU) The evening before the opening, the FII website was hacked and, for a brief period of time, featured a photo of MbS holding a sword over Jamal Khashoggi. Part of the accompanying caption read “For the sake of security for children worldwide, we urge all countries to put sanction(s) on the Saudi regime.” The FII website was subsequently taken offline, only to reappear the following morning with all content having been removed. Only the livestream feeds (in English and Arabic) remained. Within one hour of the conference’s opening, the livestream and website were again shut down; they were not restored until just before noon, two hours later.

#### Comment

13. (SBU) In recognition of the symbolic importance of the FII to his Vision 2030 reforms, Crown Prince MbS soldiered through all the controversy in recent weeks to create the appearance of “business as usual.” Despite the rhetoric of the FII’s shift eastward, a number of American companies signed agreements with Saudi Aramco. As with all of the “mega deals” announced at the FII, it is difficult to determine how the \$50 billion figure was calculated or exactly what each MOU or commercial agreement entails. One business contact indicated that his firm’s deal was “real, but already in the works.” From post’s perspective, the jury is still out on how the international investment community will judge this year’s FII. What is clear thus far is that the SAG and Saudi business leaders pulled out all the stops in an effort to make the conference – and the Crown Prince – appear successful. **End Comment.**

Signature:

[Redacted]

B6

Drafted By:

RIYADH: [Redacted]

Cleared By:

POL: [Redacted]

CONS: [Redacted]

ECON: [Redacted]

B6

Approved By:

EXEC/LEG: [Redacted]

Released By:

RIYADH: [Redacted]

Info:

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE;  
OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; OF ENERGY  
WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; DEPT COMMERCE WASHINGTON  
DC ROUTINE; CWA WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE

Dissemination Rule:

Archive Copy

UNCLASSIFIED  
SBU

~~SECRET//NOFORN~~

RELEASE IN PART  
1.4(B),B1,1.4(D),B6



PORTIONS DECLASSIFIED 05/28/2019: Anthony  
Benesch, Senior Reviewer

**MRN:** 18 DOHA 645  
**Date/DTG:** Nov 18, 2018 / 181113Z NOV 18  
**From:** AMEMBASSY DOHA  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE *ROUTINE*  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PREL, PGOV, PINS, OREP, GCC, KSAN, SA, TR, IR, AE, YE, IQ, UN, QA  
**Captions:** NOFORN  
**Reference:** 18 DOHA 611  
**Pass Line:** AMEMBASSY CAIRO PASS TO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA  
**Subject:** With Staffdel Trager, Qatari FM Discusses

1.4(D)  
B1

1. (S/NF)

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

2. (S/NF) Qatari Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani (MbAR) discussed a range of regional issues on October 31 with Senate Foreign Relations Committee

Professional Staff Members Eric Trager and Stacie Oliver. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

3. (S/NF) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

4. (S/NF) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

5. (S/NF) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

6. (S/NF) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

[Redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

7. (S/NF)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

8. (S/NF)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

9. (S/NF)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

10. (SBU) Staffdel Trager did not review this cable.

**Signature:** GRANT

**Classified By:** Name: William Grant, Title: CDA  
Office: Exec  
Agency: State

**Derived From:** DSCG 17-1

**Declassify On:** 2043/11/15

**Drafted By:** DOHA [Redacted]

**Cleared By:** Pol/Econ: [Redacted]

POL/ECON: [Redacted]

EXEC:Nelson, [Redacted]

**Approved By:** [Redacted]

**Released By:** AMEMBASSY DOHA:Rudolph, Glenn R

**Info:** ISTANBUL, AMCONSUL ROUTINE;

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

B6

WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; ~~SECRET~~ WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE;  
WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; ANKARA EMBASSY ROUTINE;  
USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL ROUTINE; ~~SECRET~~ LEAVE  
COLLECTIVE ROUTINE; ~~SECRET~~ COLLECTIVE ROUTINE;  
ZEN/ALEXANDRIA, AMCONSUL  
XMT: BASRAH, AMCONSUL; ~~SECRET~~ SANAA EMBASSY

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Dissemination Rule: Archive Copy

~~SECRET//NOFORN~~



**UNCLASSIFIED**

SBU



**RELEASE IN PART  
NR,B6**

---

**MRN:** 18 ANKARA 1232  
**Date/DTG:** Nov 27, 2018 / 271207Z NOV 18  
**From:** AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE *ROUTINE*  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PHUM, PTER, PREL, TR, SA, OSCE, KMDR, KIRF  
**Captions:** SENSITIVE  
**Subject:** Turkey Daily Note for Tuesday, November 27, 2018

**Turkey Daily Note  
November 27, 2018**

**Key Headlines**



NR

NR

**(U) Search for Evidence in Khashoggi Case Continues**

(U) Foreign Minister Cavusoglu said November 26 that Jamal Khashoggi's killers did not act alone, but cautioned against making accusations without definitive evidence. Prosecutors in Istanbul on the same day announced that a member of the 15-member Saudi "hit team" that allegedly killed Khashoggi called a Saudi national living in Yalova, about 30 miles southeast of Istanbul, one day before the journalist's death. Prosecutors suggested the call may have been related to plans for "destroying or hiding" Khashoggi's body and said police searched two villas in Yalova, including the one belonging to the Saudi national.

*(SBU) Comment: Coverage of the Khashoggi case in Turkey has declined but there are still daily stories as official statements, leaks, and editorials continue to put pressure on the Saudi government.*

NR

Signature:

B6

**Drafted By:** ANKARA:   
**Cleared By:** ECON:   
**Approved By:** POL:   
**Released By:** ANKARA:

B6

**Info:** DIA WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE;  
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE;

XMT: ISTANBUL, AMCONSUL ROUTINE; AMCONSUL ROUTINE;  
EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE ROUTINE  
ST PETERSBURG, AMCONSUL

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Dissemination Rule: Archive Copy

UNCLASSIFIED  
SBU

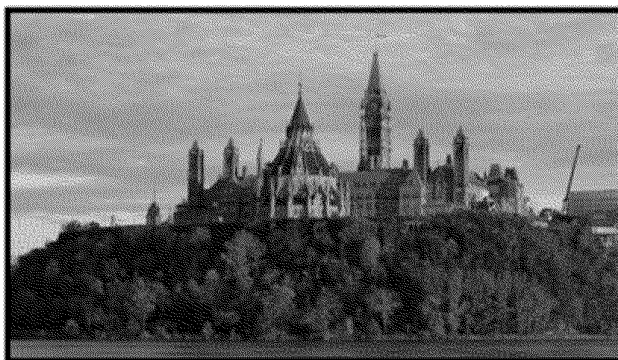
UNCLASSIFIED  
SBU



RELEASE IN PART NR,B6

**MRN:** 18 OTTAWA 1854  
**Date/DTG:** Oct 23, 2018 / 232124Z OCT 18  
**From:** AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PREL, SMIG, PREF, MASS, PHUM, ECON, EINV, ETRD, SA, CA  
**Captions:** SENSITIVE  
**Subject:** Ottawa Outlook October 23: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Saudi Arms Sales, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

NR



=====

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Canada Considers Halting Arms Sales to Saudi Arabia

[REDACTED]

=====

NR

[REDACTED]

NR

NR

NR

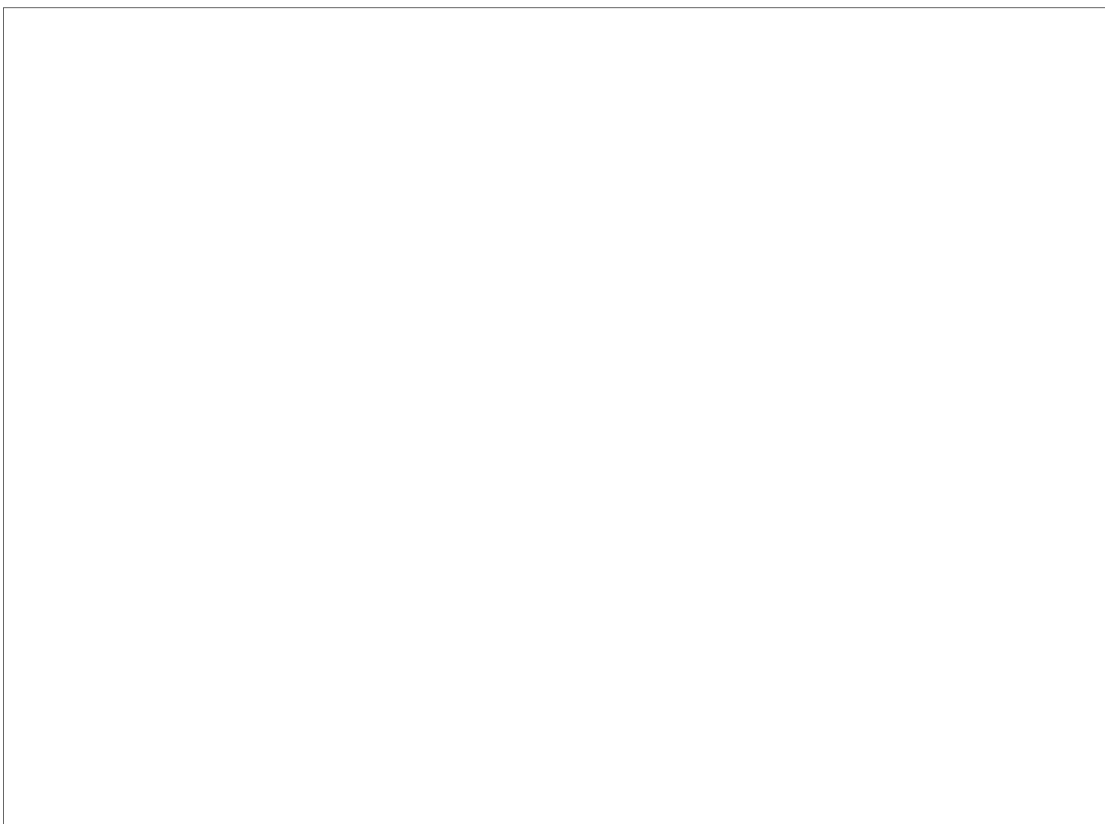
NR

**Canada Considers Halting Arms Sales to Saudi Arabia**

4. (SBU) PM Trudeau said on October 22 that he was willing to freeze exports of Canadian armored vehicles to Saudi Arabia pending a satisfactory resolution of the “murder” of journalist Jamal Khashoggi. During a Parliamentary session, Trudeau noted that his government had frozen export permits before, when it had concerns over the potential misuse of Canadian-manufactured defense goods, and would not hesitate to do so again. He also convened a meeting of the new Incident Response Group to discuss the Khashoggi case; the emergency committee was created in August to consider events that have major implications for Canada, and this marked the first time the government has used it. The group of cabinet ministers and other government officials will consider Khashoggi’s death, Canada’s ongoing discussions with allies, and Canada’s response. Saudi Arabia is Canada’s second biggest arms market, purchasing approximately USD\$382 million in military goods in 2017. Canada froze arms exports to Saudi Arabia in August 2017 and investigated the possible misuse of Canadian-made armored vehicles against Saudi citizens, but concluded that Saudi Arabia had not violated the terms of its agreement with Canada. Both PM Trudeau and FM Freeland have condemned Khashoggi’s death and called for a credible and transparent investigation, but have not cancelled the nearly USD\$11.5 billion sale. Some observers have speculated that the Canadian government could owe arms manufacturer General Dynamics over a billion dollars if the government were to take unilateral action to cancel the contract with Saudi Arabia

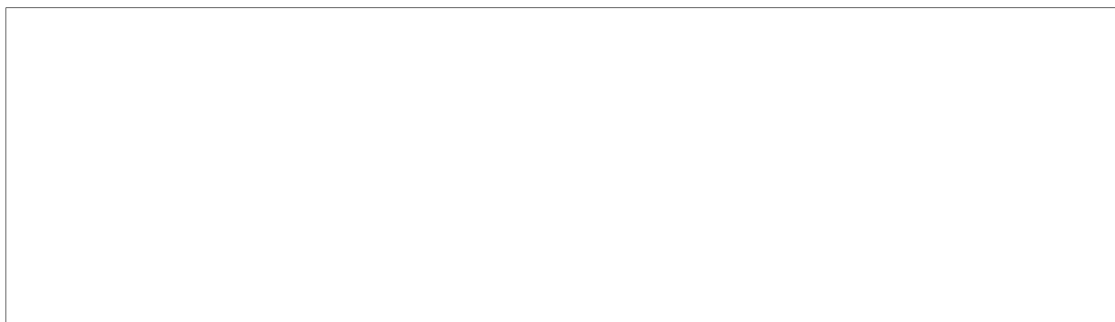
NR

NR



Source: twitter.com/garyjoelclement

NR



**Signature:**

[Redacted Signature]

B6

**Drafted By:**

Ottawa:

[Redacted]

**Cleared By:**

POL:

[Redacted]

ECON:

[Redacted]

**Approved By:**

ECON:

[Redacted]

**Released By:**

OTTAWA:

[Redacted]

**Info:**

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE;

B6

MEXICO, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE; WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE;  
ROUTINE;  
ROUTINE;  
ALL CANADIAN POSTS COLLECTIVE ROUTINE; EUNATO  
COLLECTIVE ROUTINE; WESTERN HEMISPHERIC AFFAIRS DIPL  
POSTS ROUTINE

B6

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**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

**UNCLASSIFIED**  
SBU



RELEASE IN PART NR,B6

UNCLASSIFIED  
SBU



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**MRN:** 18 VIENNA 1268  
**Date/DTG:** Nov 02, 2018 / 021533Z NOV 18  
**From:** AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE *ROUTINE*  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PREL, SMIG, PTER, PHUM, EFIN, ATRN, SENV, ECON, TINT, EPET, UN, SA, RU, AT  
**Captions:** SENSITIVE  
**Subject:** Vienna Weekly Report, October 29-November 2, 2018

Politics

NR

FM Kneissl for EU-wide Cessation of Arms Exports to Saudi Arabia

NR

Economics

NR

**Politics**

NR

**FM Kneissl for EU-wide Cessation of Arms Exports to Saudi Arabia**

(SBU) In an interview with the German paper “Die Welt” on October 26, FM Kneissl (independent, nominated by right-populist Freedom Party – FPÖe)

recommended the EU terminate deliveries of arms to Saudi-Arabia, due to the war in Yemen and the Qatar crisis. Kneissl also said she is deeply shocked by the murder of the journalist Jamal Khashoggi, which she called “an unprecedented breach of law.” Kneissl emphasized that Austria has not exported war material to Saudi Arabia since the beginning of the war in Yemen in March 2015. *Kneissl’s call for an arms embargo on Saudi Arabia follows her earlier harsh criticism of the brutal murder of Khashoggi, but is unlikely to sway EU public opinion given Austria has already ceased all arms exports to Saudi Arabia.*

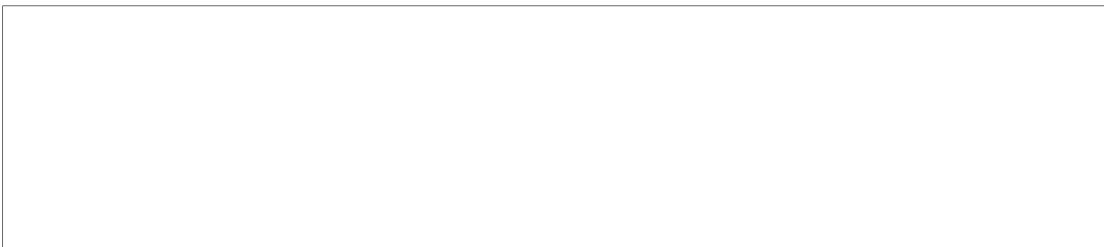
NR

NR

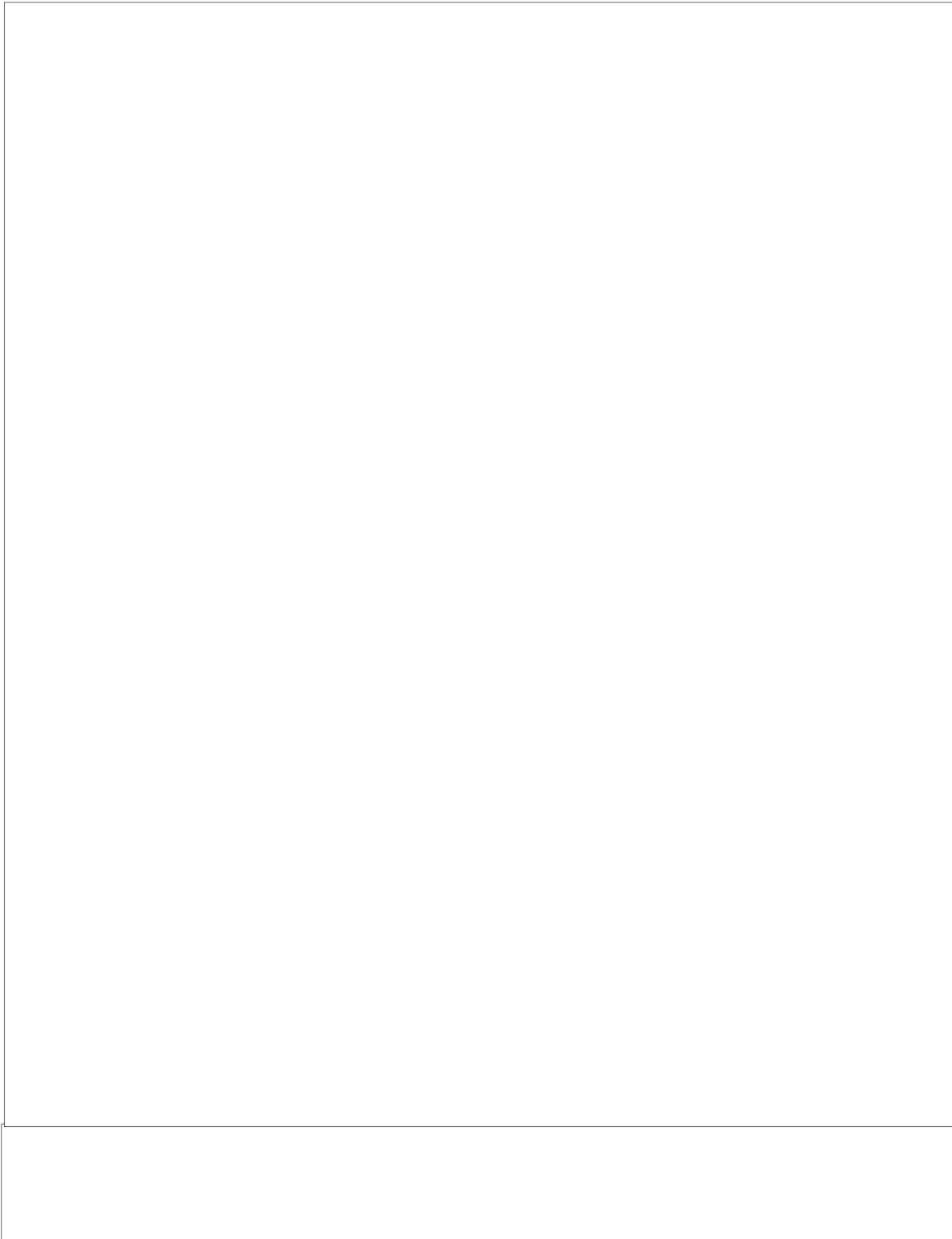


**Economics**

NR



NR



NR



**Signature:**

[Redacted]

B6

**Drafted By:**

VIENNA: [Redacted]

**Cleared By:**

ECON: [Redacted]

**Approved By:**

POL-ECON: [Redacted]

**Released By:**

VIENNA: [Redacted]

**Info:**

DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE;

OF

B6

TREASURY WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; WASHINGTON  
DC ROUTINE; COWASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; HOUSE  
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE;  
EU COLLECTIVE ROUTINE; EUROPEAN  
COLLECTIVE ROUTINE  
XMT: ST PETERSBURG, AMCONSUL

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**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

UNCLASSIFIED  
SBU

**UNCLASSIFIED**

SBU

RELEASE IN PART NR,B6



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**MRN:** 18 USOSCE 326  
**Date/DTG:** Nov 26, 2018 / 261437Z NOV 18  
**From:** USMISSION USOSCE  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE *ROUTINE*  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PREL, KDEM, KJUS, OSCE, CA, MK, RU, UA  
**Captions:** SENSITIVE  
**Subject:** USOSCE Digest: Media Harassment, OSCE Mission to Skopje, Ukraine, Russia Accuses Canada on First Peoples



U.S. Mission to the OSCE

**USOSCE Digest – November 26, 2018**  
**SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED**

**(SBU) November 22 Permanent Council:**

- 1. (SBU) RFOM Laments Spread of Violence, Media Harassment**
- 2. (SBU) OSCE Mission to Skopje Supports Transition, Rule of Law**
- 3. (SBU) Ukraine: UAV Downing Unresolved, Increased Military Presence in Zolote, and Proposed Prisoner Exchange**
- 4. (SBU) Ukraine Continued: Holdomor Anniversary**
- 5. (SBU) Canada Offers Full-Throated Response to Russian Accusations of HR Violations against Canada's First Peoples**

**1. (SBU) RFOM Laments Spread of Violence, Media Harassment:** OSCE Representative on the Freedom of the Media Harlem Desir reported he had been “stunned” by attacks against journalists since July, noting that the murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi was particularly heinous. A climate of denigration, constant accusations, and threats against the press had cultivated a “dangerous environment” threatening not only the press, but also democracy, he said. Desir argued that harassment and targeting female journalists, particularly online, remained a very real concern, adding that a free, secure, and open Internet was one of the great challenges of our time. The United States and EU highlighted instances of intimidation, imprisonment, and violence against journalists in Russia, Turkey, Azerbaijan, and Russian-occupied Ukraine. Russia alleged harassment of journalists and limitations on free speech in



Ukraine. Turkey called for justice in Khashoggi's murder. Azerbaijan denied U.S. allegations of illegal imprisonment of journalists. Norway highlighted dangers faced by female journalists. Albania, Armenia, Canada, Cyprus, France, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Slovakia, Switzerland, Turkmenistan, and the UK expressed support for a free and democratic media, condemned violence against journalists, and raised concerns over government pressure on the media. Ukraine detailed imprisonment of journalists, harassment of the media, and general limitations on the freedom of speech in Russian-occupied Crimea and Donbas.

NR

NR

Signature:

B6

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**Drafted By:** USOSCE:USOSCE Political Section

**Cleared By:** POL

POL:

B6

**Approved By:** POL-ECON

**Released By:** USOSCE:

**Info:** EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE *ROUTINE*

**XMT:** ST PETERSBURG, AMCONSUL

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**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

**UNCLASSIFIED**

SBU

UNCLASSIFIED

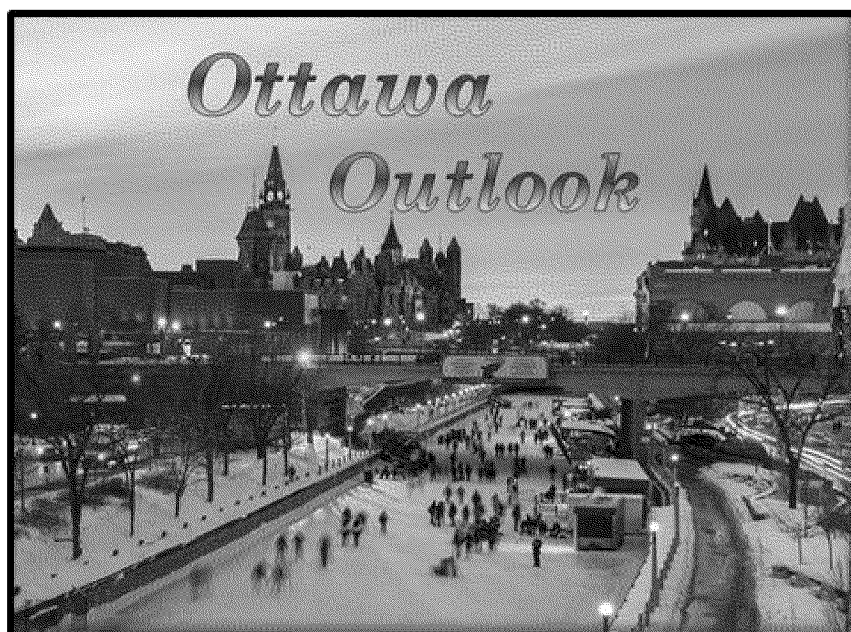
SBU



RELEASE IN PART  
NR,B6

**MRN:** 18 OTTAWA 2036  
**Date/DTG:** Nov 27, 2018 / 272114Z NOV 18  
**From:** AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** CMGT, ECON, EINT, ETRD, MARR, PGOV, SNAR, CA  
**Captions:** SENSITIVE  
**Subject:** Ottawa Outlook November 27: [REDACTED]  
Canada Still Considering Action Related to Khashoggi Murder; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

NR



=====

U [REDACTED]  
U Canada Still Considering Action Related to Khashoggi Murder

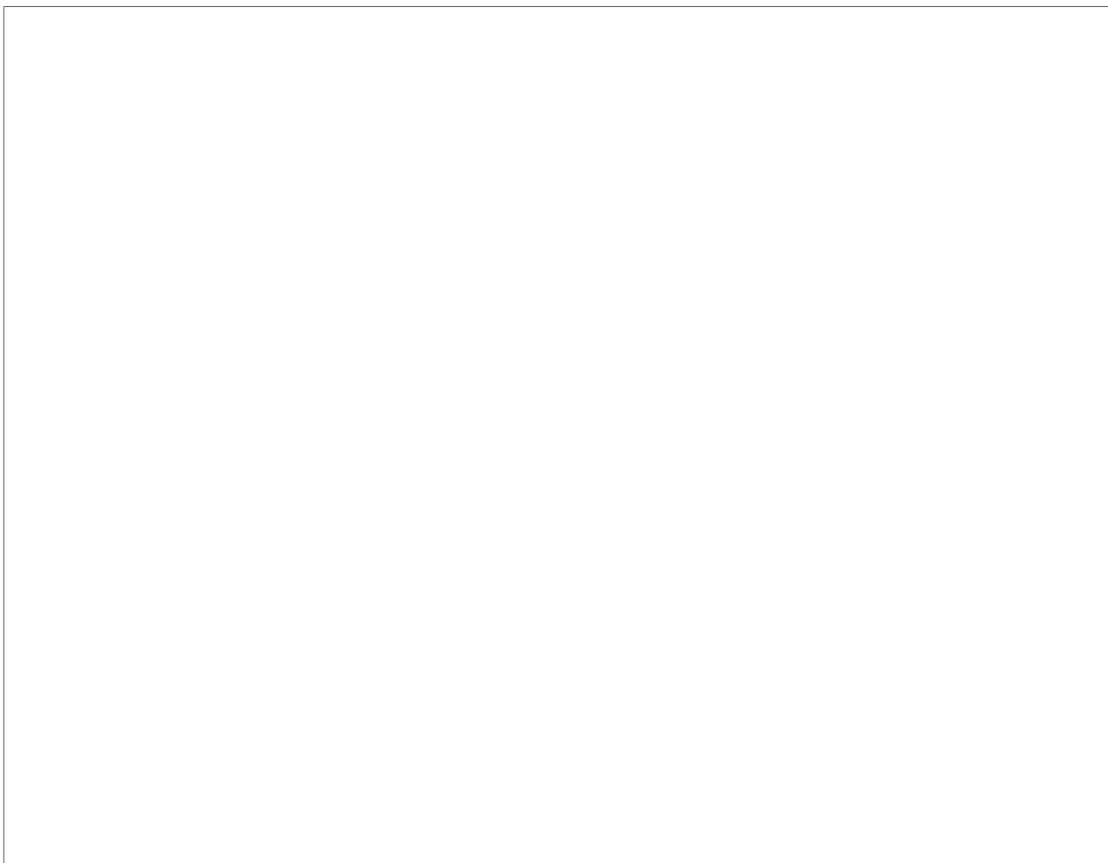
NR

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NR

#### **Canada Still Considering Action Related to Khashoggi Murder**

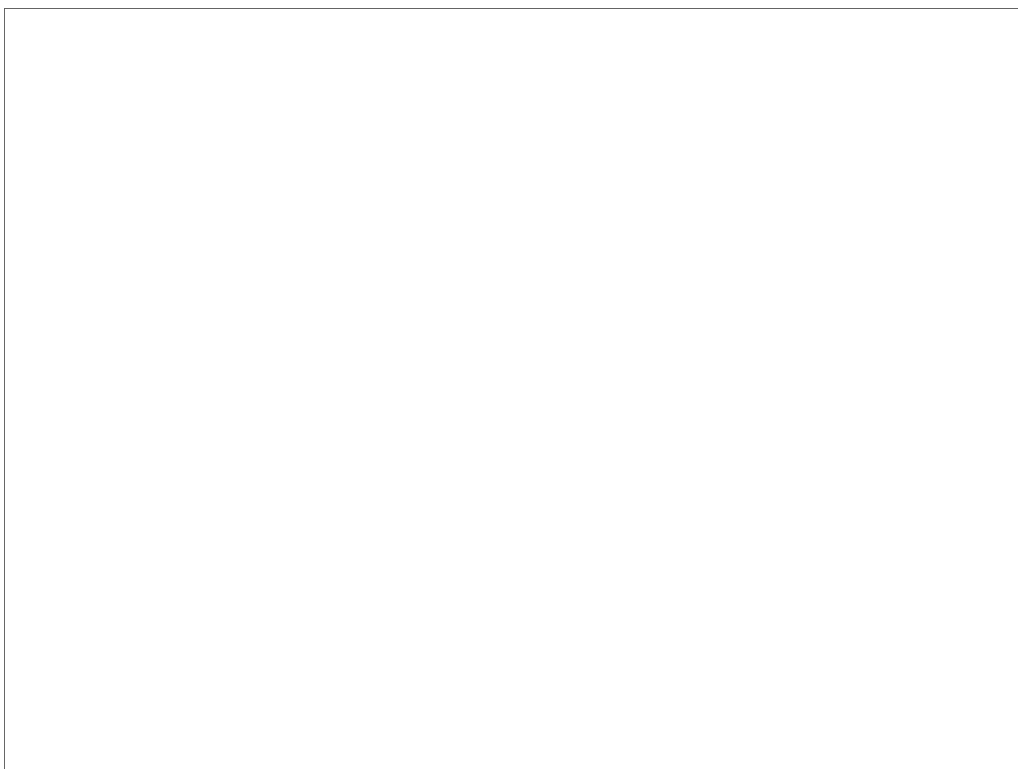
2. (SBU) Foreign Minister Freeland said that “Canada very much does not consider the Khashoggi affair to be closed,” on November 20, and underscored that Canada was actively considering Magnitsky sanctions related to the matter. FM Freeland said she expected the Khashoggi murder to be discussed during the G-20 in Buenos Aires. Members of the Conservative Party and civil society organizations have pressured the government to bring sanctions against those involved in Khashoggi’s murder, but PM Trudeau has yet to take action. NDP leader Jagmeet Singh, for example, has pushed the government to cancel a US\$11.3 billion armored vehicle deal with Saudi Arabia. PM Trudeau has acknowledged concern regarding Khashoggi’s murder, while suggesting that cancelling the contract would be too costly for Canada. Several media reports indicate cancelling the contract could cost Canadian taxpayers at least US\$750 million in fines, plus result in significant job loss. General Dynamics Land Systems-Canada employs 1850 workers at the southwestern Ontario plant that

produces the vehicles employs 1850 workers, and sources parts from more than 240 suppliers in the region. Southwestern Ontario has historically swung between parties during federal elections, and with less than a year to go before the next federal election and thousands of jobs potentially on the line, many in the region are closely watching how the Trudeau government handles the Saudi contract.



NR

NR



Signature:

[Redacted]

B6

Drafted By:

OTTAWA:

[Redacted]

Cleared By:

ECON:

[Redacted]

Approved By:

ECON:

[Redacted]

Released By:

OTTAWA:

[Redacted]

Info:

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE;

MEXICO, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE;

WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE;

[Redacted] ROUTINE;

[Redacted]

ALL CANADIAN POSTS COLLECTIVE ROUTINE;

EUNATO

COLLECTIVE ROUTINE;

WESTERN HEMISPHERIC AFFAIRS DIPL

POSTS ROUTINE

B6

B6

Dissemination Rule:

Archive Copy

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Sensitive

RELEASE IN  
PART B1,1.4(D),  
B6



**MRN:** 18 CAIRO 839  
**Date/DTG:** Nov 28, 2018 / 281133Z NOV 18  
**From:** AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE *ROUTINE*  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PREL, ECON, EINV, ETRD, EPET, EMIN, EAGR, SA, EG  
**Captions:** SENSITIVE  
**Reference:** 18 CAIRO 781  
**Pass Line:** AMEMBASSY CAIRO PASS TO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA  
**Subject:** Cairo Welcomes MBS

1. (C)

[Redacted content]

1.4(D)  
B1

**Program**

2. (C)

[Redacted content]

1.4(D)  
B1

[REDACTED]

3. (C)

[REDACTED]

1.4(D)  
B1

[REDACTED]

4. (SBU) Television coverage of the visit was widespread with several local newspapers carrying images of Sisi and MBS on their front pages. Coverage was not entirely positive; 100 Egyptian journalists signed a statement rejecting the MBS visit ahead of his arrival, in solidarity with fellow journalist Khashoggi, and messages on social media were mixed. While some Egyptians responded to the trending hashtag “#MBS you are most welcome in Egypt” with messages supporting the visit, others rejected the visit with messages such as “A murderer welcoming another murderer. MBS is not welcome in Egypt.” Prior to the visit activists launched the hashtag “the visit of the saw is a disgrace,” an apparent reference to the “Mr. Bone Saw” (MBS) moniker activists gave the Crown Prince after the Khashoggi murder.

#### **Topics of Bilateral Concern**

5. (SBU) Journalists anticipated that MBS and Sisi would discuss the war in Yemen and the rift with Qatar. Some considered breakthroughs or policy shifts on



those topics possible, given the new pressure on MBS to bolster international support. Media also mentioned relations with Iran, counter-terrorism efforts, and Israeli-Palestinian issues as likely topics of discussion. Economic relations were apparently a key item on the agenda, as the Saudi government provided a critical source of financing in times of economic difficulty. In his statement regarding the visit, the Saudi ambassador to Egypt stressed the importance of bilateral economic ties. Abdalla bin Mahfouz, Chairman of the Egyptian-Saudi Business Council, which convened during the MBS visit, said officials would sign major agreements, including a deal between ARAMCO, the Saudi Pan Kingdom Company (SAPAC), and Egyptian petrochemical companies. He added that the mining and agriculture sectors would take priority in bilateral business relations.

6. (SBU) At the conclusion of the visit, the GoE released a statement noting that Sisi stressed the strength of the bilateral alliance, told MBS that Saudi Arabia's security and stability were an integral part of Egypt's national security, and emphasized Egypt's desire to promote cooperation and coordination with Saudi Arabia to "face Middle East challenges."

7. (C)

1.4(D)  
B1

**Signature:**                      Goldberger

---

<b>Classified By:</b>	Name: Thomas Goldberger, Title: CDA
<b>Derived From:</b>	DSCG 17-1
<b>Declassify On:</b>	2043/11/28
<b>Drafted By:</b>	POL: <div></div>
<b>Cleared By:</b>	ECON: <div></div>
	PAS: <div></div>
	POL: <div></div>
	POL: <div></div> M
	DCM: <div></div>
<b>Approved By:</b>	CDA: <div></div>
<b>Released By:</b>	CAIRO: <div></div>

B6

**Info:** ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE ROUTINE; ISRAELI  
COLLECTIVE ROUTINE; ZEN/ALEXANDRIA AMCONSUL  
**XMT:** BASRAH, AMCONSUL; SANAA EMBASSY

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**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Sensitive

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Sensitive

RELEASE IN PART  
1.4(B),B1,1.4(D), B6



**MRN:** 18 RIYADH 801  
**Date/DTG:** Oct 31, 2018 / 311423Z OCT 18  
**From:** AMEMBASSY RIYADH  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE *ROUTINE*  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** ECON, ETRD, EINV, KIPR, PGOV, PREL, PINR, CN, SA  
**Captions:** SENSITIVE  
**Reference:** A) 17 RIYADH 515  
B) 18 RIYADH 572  
C) 18 RIYADH 551  
D) 18 RIYADH 607  
E) 18 RIYADH 834  
**Pass Line:** AMEMBASSY CAIRO PASS TO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA  
**Subject:** [REDACTED]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

1. (C) [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

2. (C) [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

**Resolution of Bilateral Trade Irritants – Vendor Non-Payment, Intellectual Property Rights Issues**

3. (SBU) Addressing concerns over persistent overdue payments from Saudi Arabia government (SAG) entities to U.S. companies (ref A), the Minister assured the CDA that he would personally ensure

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

resolution of outstanding cases. He explained that such late payments were caused by excessive bureaucracy and that the SAG should rely more heavily on information technology to improve its on-time payment record, adding that better information systems should produce significant progress within one year. The minister also said he would instruct his deputy minister to engage with EmbOffs to resolve the late payment issue quickly. [Note: The CDA provided Qasabi a list of U.S. companies facing significant arrears from SAG entities. Embassy Riyadh is following up with the deputy minister to pursue this issue. End Note.]

4. (SBU) Regarding complaints from two U.S. pharmaceutical companies that the SAG has violated their patent and data protection rights (ref B), the minister explained that he is "caught between a rock and a hard place." Although he would like to maintain the trust of the U.S. pharmaceutical industry, he believes that independent legal analysis obtained by the SAG has validated the SAG's actions in these matters. He explained that he directed an independent analysis from a reputable U.S. law firm. This report indicated, in the case of one of the two alleged violations, the SAG's actions were completely justified. In the case of the second alleged violation, the report indicated the SAG's actions were justified but there may be room for a different legal interpretation. The minister again directed his staff to convene a meeting of relevant SAG agencies and EmbOffs to review the issue and the lawyers' report, adding that a copy of the report would be provided to the Embassy. The minister demurred, however, when asked if U.S. industry representatives could also join the meeting.

5. (C) [REDACTED]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

6. (C) [REDACTED]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

7. (C) [REDACTED]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

8. (C) [REDACTED]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

9. (C) [REDACTED]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

**Signature:** STRONG

**Classified By:** Name: Martina Strong, Title: CDA  
Office: Embassy Riyadh  
Agency: Department of State

**Derived From:** DSCG 17-1

**Declassify On:** 2043/10/31

**Drafted By:** RIYADH: [REDACTED]

**Cleared By:** ECON: [REDACTED]

A/DCM: [REDACTED]

FCS: [REDACTED]

**Approved By:** EXEC: [REDACTED]

**Released By:** RIYADH: [REDACTED]

**Info:** US TRADE REP WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; OFFICE OF COMMERCE

WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE;

COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE ROUTINE; LEADERSHIP

COLLECTIVE ROUTINE; ZEN/ALEXANDRIA CONSUL

**XMT:** SANAA, AMEMBASSY; BASRAH CONSUL

**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

B6

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
Sensitive

RELEASE IN PART NR,B6

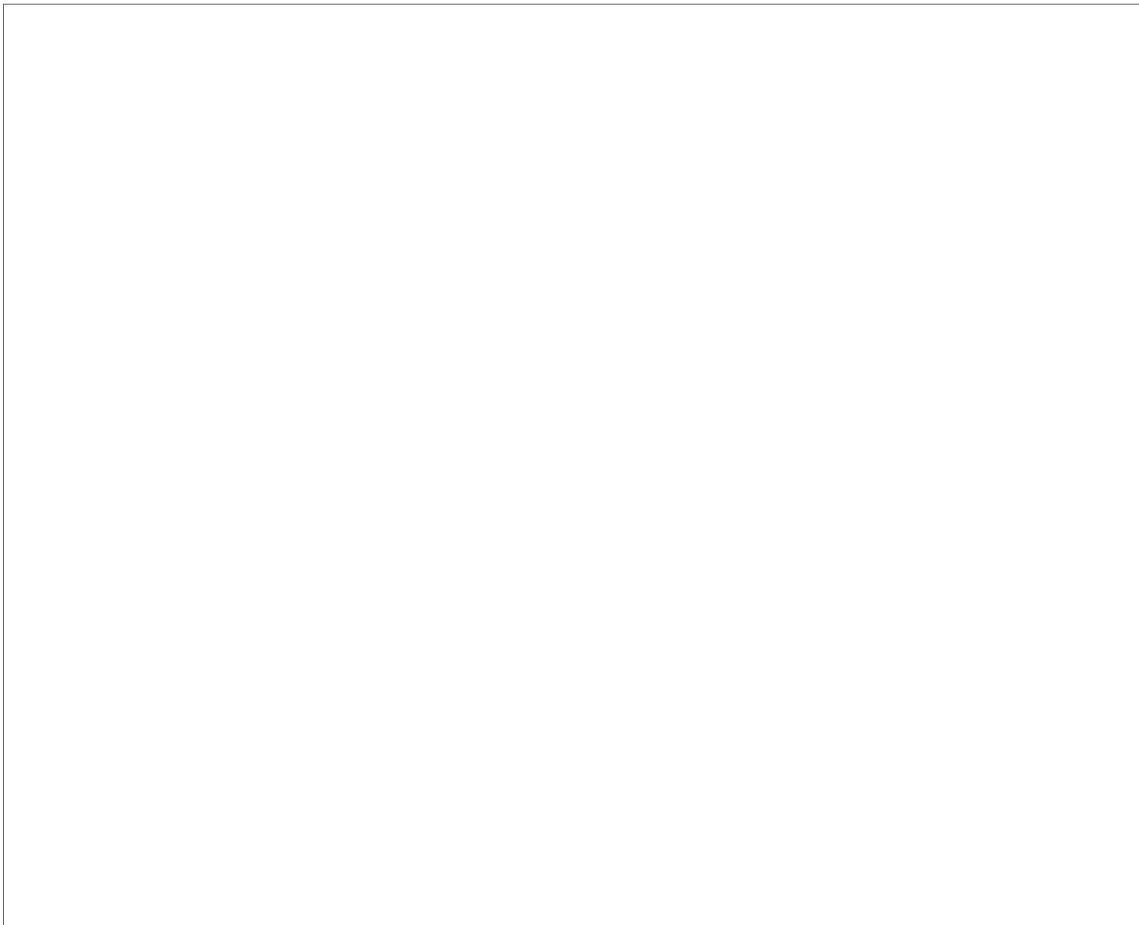
UNCLASSIFIED  
SBU



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**MRN:** 18 ANKARA 1110  
**Date/DTG:** Oct 30, 2018 / 301445Z OCT 18  
**From:** AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE *ROUTINE*  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** ECON, PGOV, PHUM, PREL, TR, JP, SY, NATO, SA, ELAB  
**Captions:** SENSITIVE  
**Subject:** Turkey Daily Note: Tuesday, October 30, 2018

Key Headlines



NR

NR

#### **Khashoggi Remains in the Headlines**

(U) Jamal Khashoggi's killing continues to dominate Turkish media. Semi-official Anadolu Agency's website features a dedicated section titled "Where's Is Khashoggi's Body" and President Erdogan and other senior officials speak on the case daily. Yesterday there was widespread coverage of the meeting between Turkish and Saudi chief prosecutors at an Istanbul courthouse on October 29. Pro-government media claimed Turkey's prosecutor requested the extradition of 18 suspects arrested in Saudi Arabia and shared statements given by Consulate employees with Saudi counterparts. Foreign Minister Cavusoglu lauded the meeting as an example of bilateral cooperation but called on Riyadh to reveal "all truth" regarding the killing noting that the journalist's body has yet to be recovered.

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Signature:

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Drafted By:

ANKARA:

Cleared By:

ECON:

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Approved By:

POL:

Released By:

ANKARA:

Info:

DIA WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE;  
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE;  
ISTANBUL, AMCONSUL ROUTINE; AMCONSUL ROUTINE;  
EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE ROUTINE  
ST PETERSBURG, AMCONSUL

XMT:

Dissemination Rule:

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SBU



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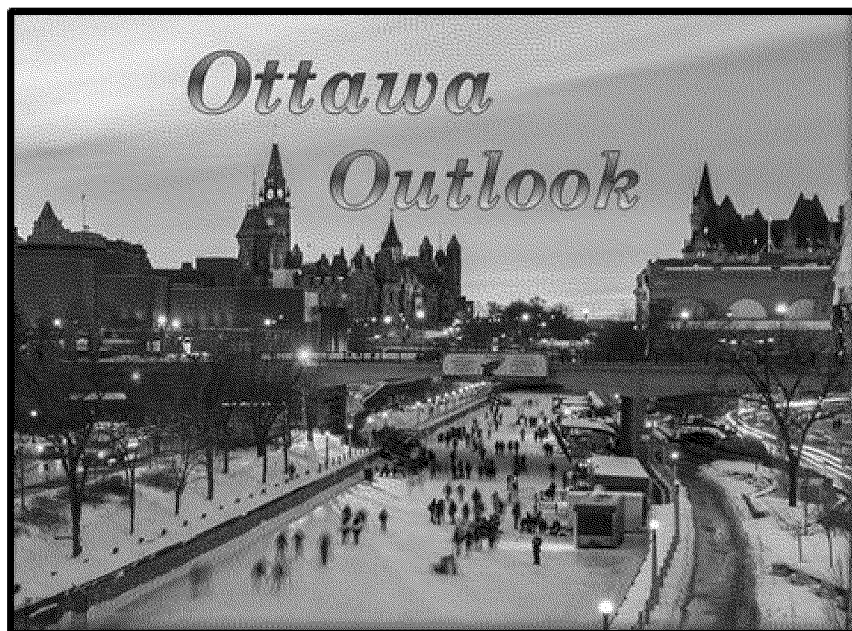
SBU



RELEASE IN PART  
B6

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**MRN:** 18 OTTAWA 2046  
**Date/DTG:** Nov 29, 2018 / 292009Z NOV 18  
**From:** AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE *ROUTINE*  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PREL, SA, KSAN, CA  
**Captions:** SENSITIVE  
**Subject:** Ottawa Outlook November 29: Canada Sanctions Individuals Linked to Khashoggi Murder



=====

U Canada Sanctions Individuals Linked to Khashoggi Murder

=====

### Canada Sanctions Individuals Linked to Khashoggi Murder

1. (U) Minister of Foreign Affairs Chrystia Freeland November 29 announced targeted sanctions against the same 17 Saudi nationals the United States sanctioned November 15, according to the Global Affairs Canada press release and media reports. The announcement marks only the third time Ottawa has utilized the provisions of its Magnitsky-style Justice for Victims of Corrupt Foreign Officials Act. The listing freezes the individuals' assets in Canada and renders them inadmissible. Freeland confirmed Canada's support for human rights and freedom of the press while stressing the need for a credible and independent investigation. It remains unclear whether Canada will engage directly with Saudi officials during the G20 meetings in Buenos Aires but Freeland intends to meet with nations considering similar responses.



Source: Chronical Herald (Halifax, Nova Scotia)

Signature:

Drafted By:

OTTAWA:

Cleared By:

ECON

Approved By:

ECON

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B6

Released By:

OTTAWA [REDACTED]

B6

Info:

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE;  
MEXICO, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE; WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE;  
[REDACTED] ROUTINE; [REDACTED]  
ALL CANADIAN POSTS COLLECTIVE ROUTINE; EUNATO  
COLLECTIVE ROUTINE; WESTERN HEMISPHERIC AFFAIRS DIPL  
POSTS ROUTINE

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1.4(B),B1,1.4(D), B6

~~SECRET//NOFORN~~



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**MRN:** 18 STATE 55963  
**Date/DTG:** Nov 26, 2018 / 262143Z NOV 18  
**From:** SECSTATE WASHDC  
**Action:** ANKARA, AMEMBASSY *IMMEDIATE*  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** OVIP, (POMPEO, MICHAEL), PSSM, TR, SY, SA, VE, IR  
**Captions:** EXDIS, NOFORN  
**Subject:** (U) Secretary Pompeo's November 20, 2018, Meeting with Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu

1. (U) November 20; 12:30 p.m.; Washington, DC; United States.

2. (U) Participants:

UNITED STATES

The Secretary

Ulrich Brechbuhl, Counselor

James F. Jeffrey, Special Representative for Syria Engagement

Elisabeth I. Millard, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs

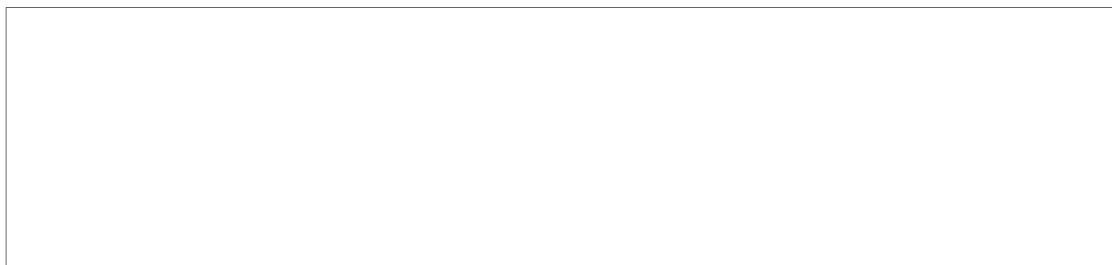
TURKEY

Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu

Serdar Kilic, Ambassador to the United States

Ali Onaner, Special Advisor to Finance and Treasury Minister Albayrak

Tugay Tuncer, Deputy Director General for the Americas



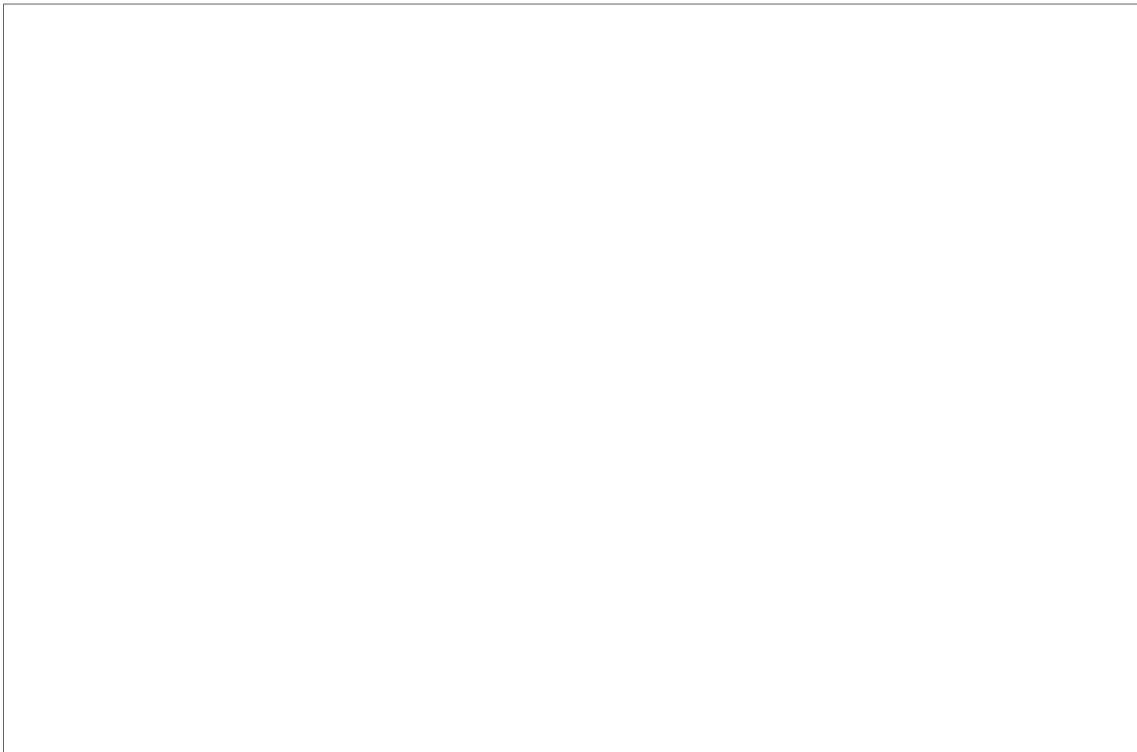
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1.4(D)  
B1



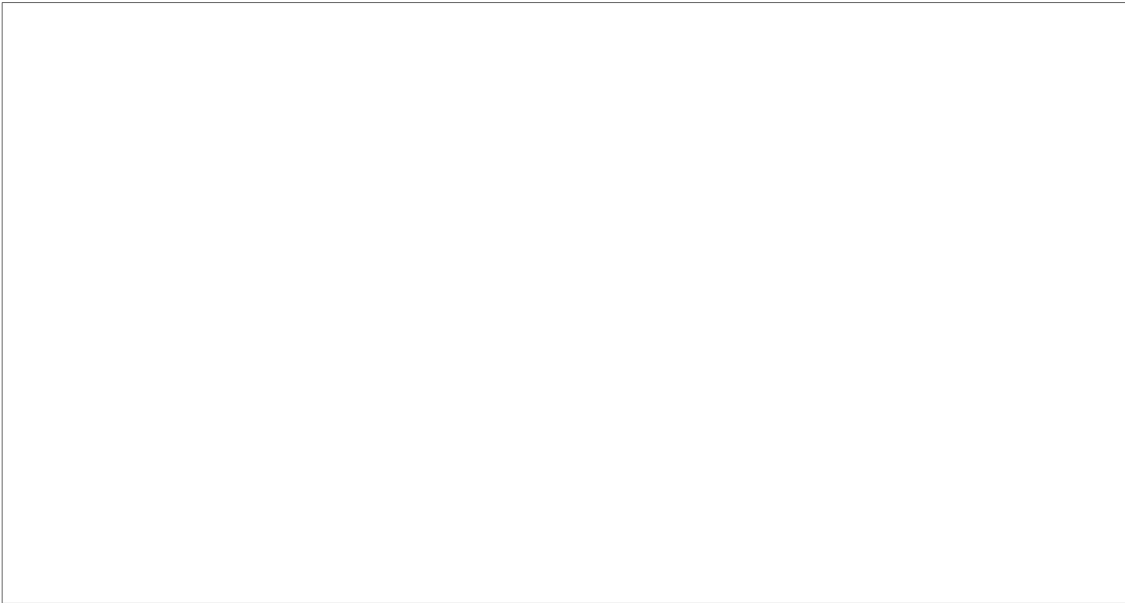
1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
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END SUMMARY.

(U) SYRIA



1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1



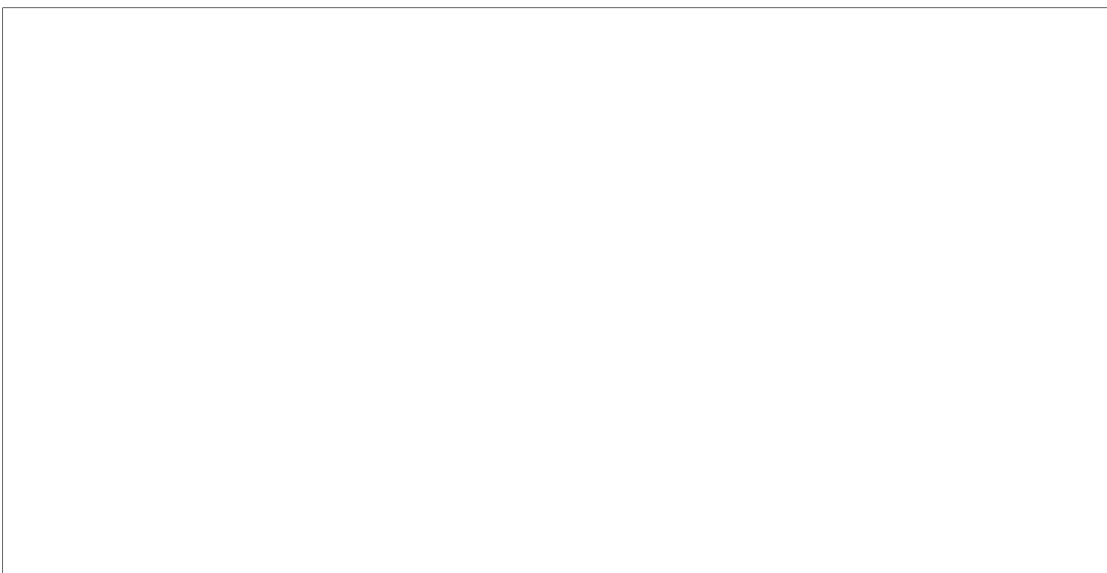
1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

(U) GULEN



1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

(U) HALKBANK

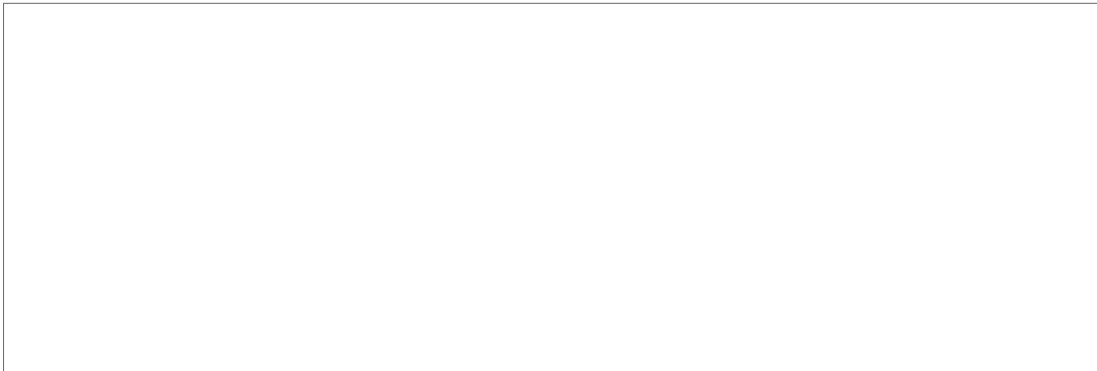


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1.4(D)  
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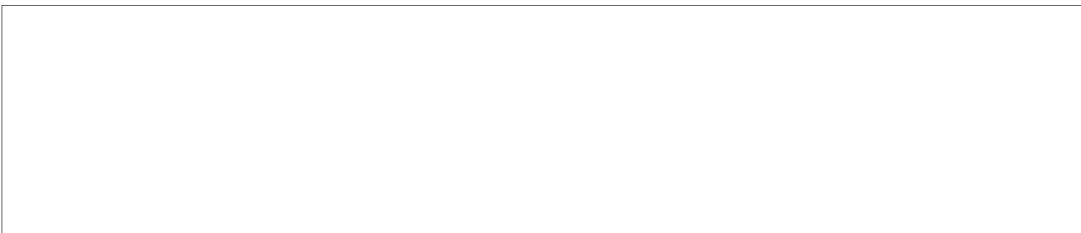


1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

(U) KHASHOGGI



1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1



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(U) IRAN

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

(U) OTHER ISSUES

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

16. (SBU) Cavusoglu mentioned the April 14-16, 2019, American-Turkey Council conference in Washington. He suggested he and the Secretary attend together.

**Signature:** Pompeo

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**Classified By:** Name: [REDACTED] Title: EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
Office: S/ES  
Agency: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

**Reason:** 1.4 (b), (d)

**Declassify On:** 2943/11/21

**Drafted By:** EUR/SE:

**Cleared By:** Cleared: S/ES-S: [REDACTED]

S/ES: [REDACTED]

EUR [REDACTED]

S/SRS: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

EUR/SE: [REDACTED]

WASHDC

**Approved By:** S/ES: [REDACTED]

B6



Released By: IRM\_OPS\_MSO:   
Info: NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC *IMMEDIATE*

B6

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**MRN:** 18 ANKARA 1128  
**Date/DTG:** Nov 02, 2018 / 021034Z NOV 18  
**From:** AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PREL, PHUM, PINR, ECON, TR, QA, SA, EAGR  
**Captions:** SENSITIVE  
**Subject:** Turkey Daily Note: Friday, November 2, 2018

**Turkey Daily Note**

**November 2, 2018**

**Key Headlines**

**(U) Turkish Minister of Justice Calls for Saudi Cooperation in Khashoggi Case**

(U) Turkey's Minister of Justice Abdulhamit Gul on November 1 urged Saudi authorities to support the investigation into the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi. He complained that Saudi Arabia's chief Prosecutor, who visited Istanbul this week, returned to Riyadh without answering written questions from his Turkish counterpart. Gul said it is unlikely Turkey's prosecutor will make a reciprocal visit to Saudi Arabia, as the crime happened in Istanbul. Gul's comments followed those of Chief Istanbul prosecutor Irfan Fidan, who announced on October 31 that Khashoggi was strangled and dismembered, Turkey's first public confirmation of previously leaked details.

*(SBU) Comment: Prior to the Chief Istanbul Prosecutor's statement, leaks about the Khashoggi case were dominating Turkish media. Gul and Fidan's statements effectively moved those leaks to the official record and received widespread coverage in Turkish media.*

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**Signature:**

[Redacted Signature]

B6

**Drafted By:**

ANKARA: [Redacted]

**Cleared By:**

ECON: [Redacted]

**Approved By:**

POL: [Redacted]

**Released By:**

ANKARA: [Redacted]

**Info:**

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE;  
WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE;  
ISTANBUL, AMCONSUL ROUTINE; AMCONSUL ROUTINE;  
EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE ROUTINE

**XMT:**

ST PETERSBURG, AMCONSUL

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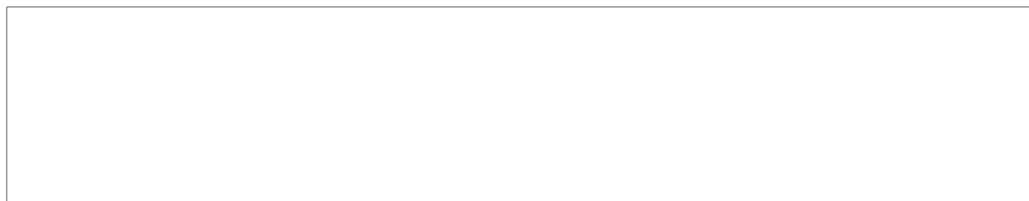


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**From:** AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE *ROUTINE*  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** ECON, ECIN, EFIN, EIND, EINV, ETRD, PGOV, PINR, PREL, PTER, AT, CN, IL, RS, TR, VN, EUN  
**Captions:** SENSITIVE  
**Subject:** Vienna Weekly Report, October 15-19, 2018

**HEADLINES:**

Politics



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4) FM Reiterates Call for Full Investigation into Khashoggi Case

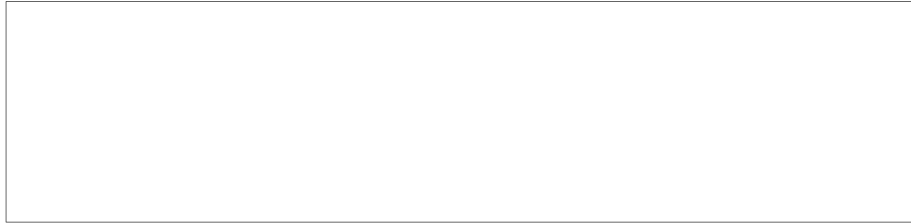


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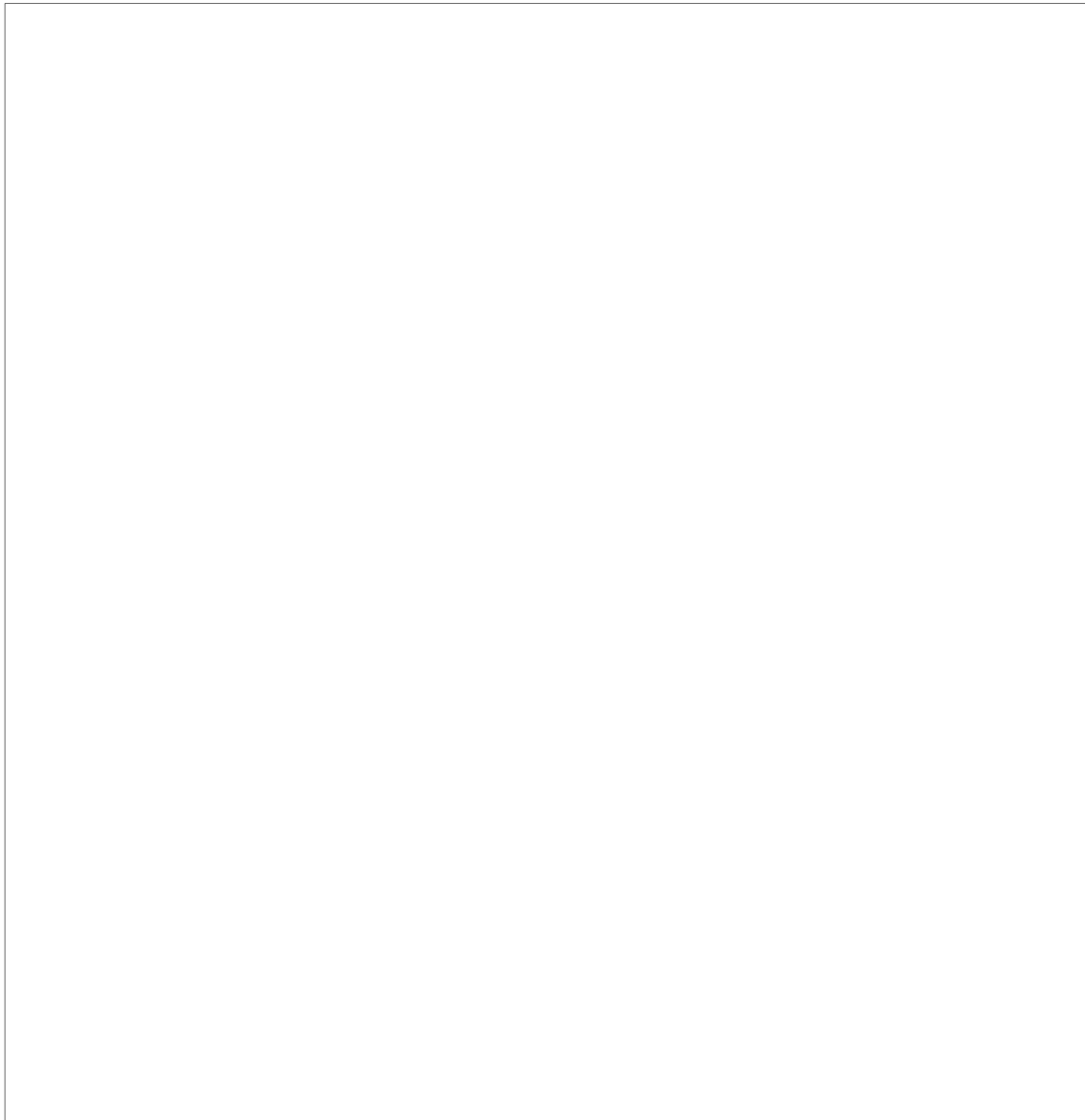


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**Politics**



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#### **FM Reiterates Call for Full Investigation into Khashoggi Case**

4. (SBU) Speaking ahead of the EU FM meeting in Brussels October 15, Austrian FM Kneissl (independent – nominated by right-populist Freedom Party – FPÖ) reiterated her call for a thorough investigation into the Khashoggi case. Kneissl called for a joint reaction by the EU, but cautioned against “premature action...as long as we don’t know all the facts.” *In a first reaction October 8, Kneissl had expressed “grave concern about the barbaric murder of the Saudi journalist Khashoggi.”*

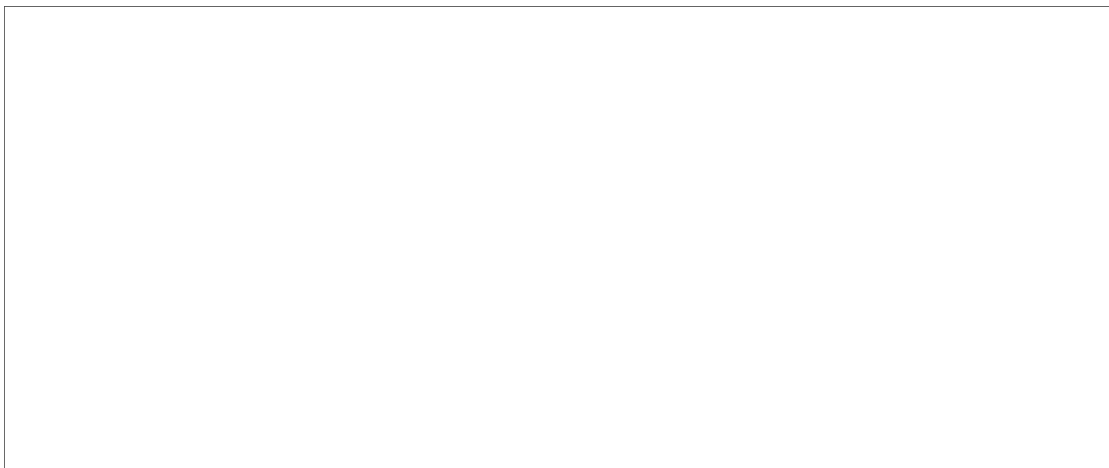
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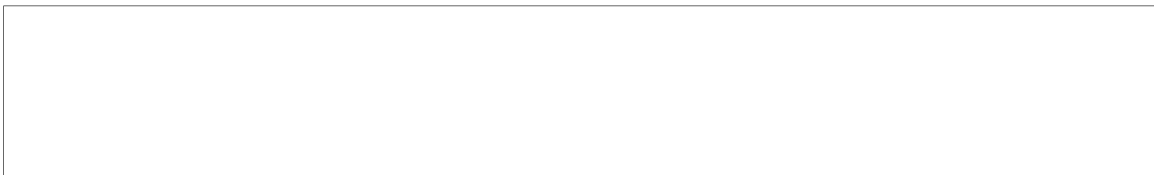
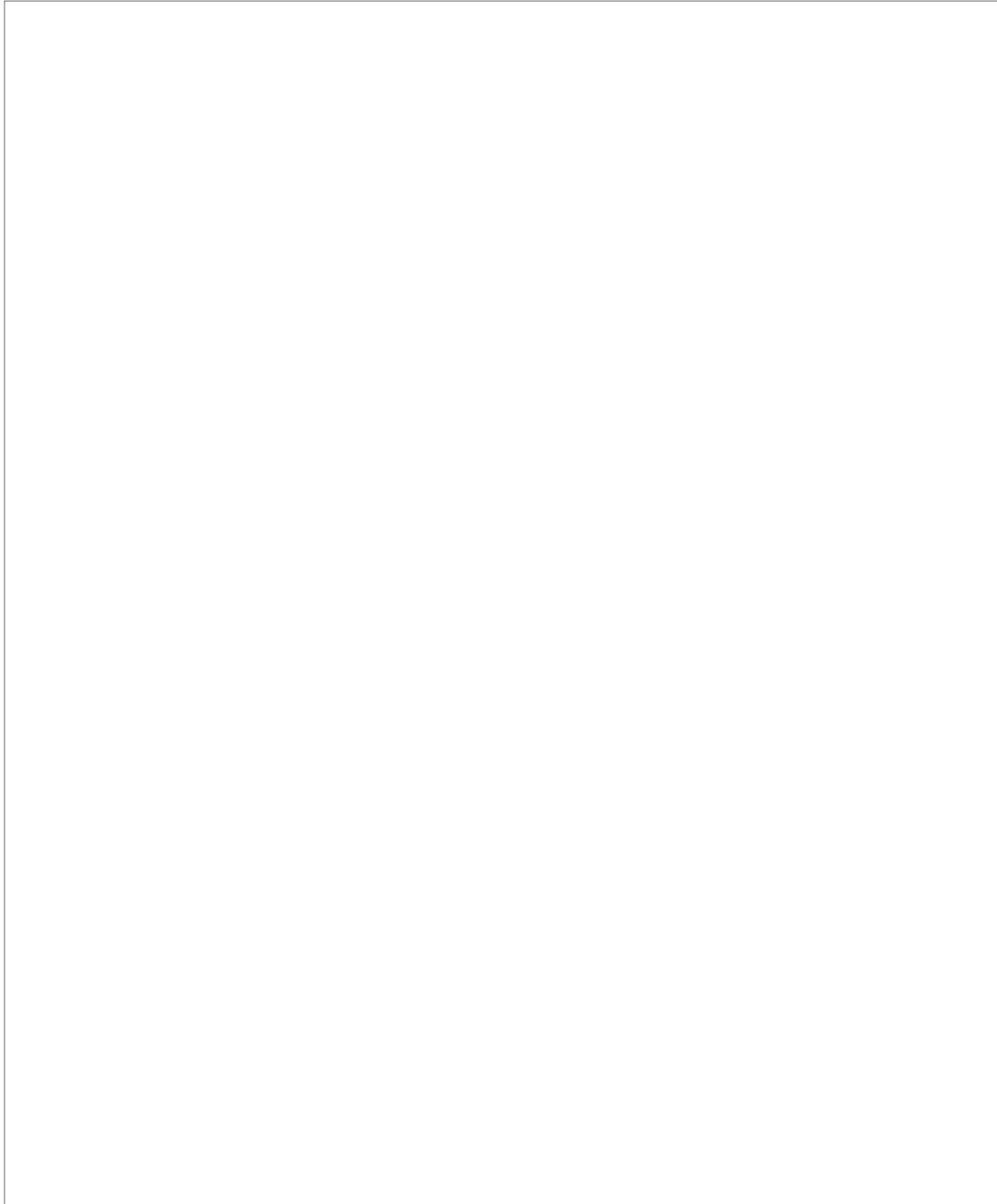


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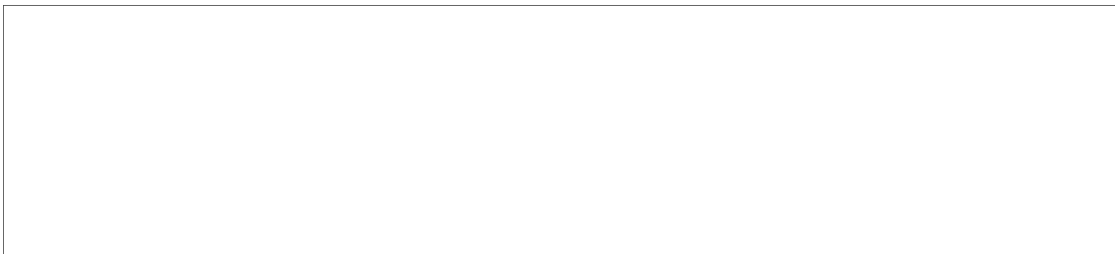


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Signature:

[Redacted]

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Drafted By:

VIENNA: [Redacted]

Cleared By:

POL-ECON: [Redacted]

Approved By:

ECON: [Redacted]

Released By:

VIENNA: [Redacted]

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Info:

DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; OF DEPT  
COMMERCE WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; HOUSE NATIONAL  
SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; WASHINGTON  
DC ROUTINE; NATO COLLECTIVE ROUTINE; EUROPE  
COLLECTIVE ROUTINE

XMT:

ST PETERSBURG, AMCONSUL

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**MRN:** 18 DOHA 646  
**Date/DTG:** Nov 28, 2018 / 281422Z NOV 18  
**From:** AMEMBASSY DOHA  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE *ROUTINE*  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PREL, ECON, ECPS, TINT, KIPR, KCYB, USTR, GCC, SA, QA  
**Captions:** SENSITIVE  
**Reference:** A) 18 DOHA 317  
B) 18 DOHA 377  
C) 18 RIYADH 551  
D) 18 RIYADH 607  
E) 18 DOHA 559  
F) 18 DOHA 655  
**Subject:** Qatar: BeoutQ's Theft of U.S. Content from BeIN Media Group Continues

1. (SBU) **Key Points:**

- ❑ Qatari-owned sports and entertainment network beIN says the theft of its U.S., Qatari, and foreign media content by Saudi-based pirate network beoutQ has worsened, despite recent announcements by Saudi authorities that they have taken measures to confiscate over 3,700 beoutQ set-top boxes. BeIN contends that beoutQ set-top boxes have spread around the world, and beoutQ's app-based services and streaming site are enabling its content to proliferate on other international pirate platforms.
- ❑ BeIN, which alleges that beoutQ operates out of a facility in Riyadh's Saudi Media City, continues to face steep financial losses due to piracy and has threatened to cut U.S. content providers who do not help beIN defend their intellectual property.
- ❑ The network [redacted] was doubtful that increased scrutiny of the Saudi government following the murder of Jamal Khashoggi would result in meaningful enforcement action against beoutQ. BeIN has strengthened its relationship with its Turkish network partner, aided by the geopolitical realignments in the region following the onset of the Gulf rift.
- ❑ **Comment:** BeoutQ's ongoing piracy may represent the most egregious financial loss endured by Qatar during the course of the Gulf rift. The brazen nature of the theft of U.S. and other foreign content undermines many years of USG efforts in the region to uphold IPR norms and laws. End Comment and Key Points.

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## BeIN [ ] Says Piracy Worse Than Before

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2. (SBU) [ ] beIN [ ] recently told Embossos that the piracy of the Qatari sports and entertainment giant's content by a shadowy network calling itself beoutQ (refs A-E) has worsened in recent months. BeIN is the exclusive distributor in the region for many U.S. sports leagues and entertainment channels and retains the world's largest portfolio of sports broadcast rights. BeIN claims that beoutQ was stood up with Saudi government support in August 2017, maintains a studio in Riyadh's Saudi Media City, broadcasts its signal on Riyadh-based Arabsat, and has pirated U.S. content with impunity for over a year. [ ] noted that beoutQ set-top boxes, initially sold by the tens of thousands within Saudi Arabia, are increasingly found around the world, including as far as Miami. Other pirate channels around the world have begun streaming beoutQ content, creating a cascade of media theft that is extremely difficult to rein in. [ ] characterized the Saudi government's recent efforts to seize 3,700 beoutQ-branded set-top boxes within the Kingdom as mere window dressing against the industrial scale of beoutQ's piracy.

## Financial Hemorrhaging Continues

3. (SBU) In the face of mounting financial losses, beIN will not renew contracts for U.S. media companies that have demonstrated insufficient "support" for beIN (e.g., by failing to raise concerns to Saudi media authorities), [ ] said. U.S. sports leagues have been helpful, but [ ] senses U.S. entertainment channels are reluctant to risk the Saudi government's ire at a time when the Saudi entertainment sector is showing commercial promise. In October, beIN lodged a \$1 billion international investment arbitration case against beoutQ and the Qatari government filed a formal complaint against Saudi Arabia at the WTO, but [ ] said these cases will take five to six years to conclude, ending after the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Doha. On November 9, Qatar requested the formation of an adjudication panel for their WTO case, noting Saudi officials had refused repeated requests for consultations on beoutQ piracy. Per [ ] beoutQ's piracy caused a 17 percent drop in beIN's 2017 revenues. The network holds \$15 billion in media contracts and its core business is composed mostly of European sports league contracts. Consumers of U.S. media represent a niche market for beIN, so as the media giant is forced to take austerity measures, U.S. firms may be first on the chopping block.

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## BeIN Draws Closer to Turkish Network Partner

4. (SBU) Since the onset of the Gulf rift, beIN has doubled down on its partnership with Digiturk, a Turkish broadcaster it acquired in 2016, in an "alignment" that has included greater cooperation on encryption, satellite technology, over-the-top media services, and staff exchanges, according to [ ]. Digiturk remains commercially separate from beIN, but provides the Doha media group with access to a sizable and growing media market. [ ] suggested that the number of high-level political and economic exchanges between Qatar and Turkey in the last year have helped to further beIN's relationship with Digiturk (ref F).

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## Can the Khashoggi Affair Help beIN?

5. (SBU) [ ] was unsure if the reputational fallout from the murder of Jamal Khashoggi

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would lead the Saudi government to take action against beoutQ, but noted that the social media silence of deposed royal court advisor Saud al-Qahtani—formerly a prominent promoter of beoutQ on social media—was a welcome development from beIN’s perspective. [ ] has “heard rumors” that as part of a “grand deal” with the Turkish government, Riyadh-based Arabsat may stop transmitting beoutQ’s signal by the end of 2018, but was skeptical that any bargain between Turkey and Saudi Arabia would include such an oddly specific measure. [ ] held more hope that the Saudi government, under increasing global scrutiny, may claw back some of beoutQ’s most obvious excesses. He noted that beoutQ has deployed software updates in recent months to further restrict beoutQ set-top box owners from using the devices outside of Saudi borders (with mixed success against consumers armed with VPNs), which he suggested was an attempt to limit the “embarrassment” of having an obviously Saudi pirate product leak into global markets.

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**Signature:** GRANT

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**Drafted By:** DOHA: [ ]

**Cleared By:** POL-ECON: [ ]

POL-ECON: [ ]

DOC/ITA/USCS [ ]

EXO: [ ]

**Approved By:** EXEC/LEG: [ ] (Doha)

**Released By:** DOHA: [ ]

**Info:** US TRADE REP WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; NATIONALITY  
COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; DEPT OF COMMERCE  
WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE

B6

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**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

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**MRN:** 18 ANKARA 1218  
**Date/DTG:** Nov 23, 2018 / 231118Z NOV 18  
**From:** AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE *ROUTINE*  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** ECON, PGOV, PHUM, PINR, PREL, PTER, NATO, ASEC, SY, SA, TR  
**Captions:** SENSITIVE  
**Subject:** Turkey Daily Note: Friday, November 23, 2018

**Turkey Daily Note  
November 23, 2018**

**Key Headlines**



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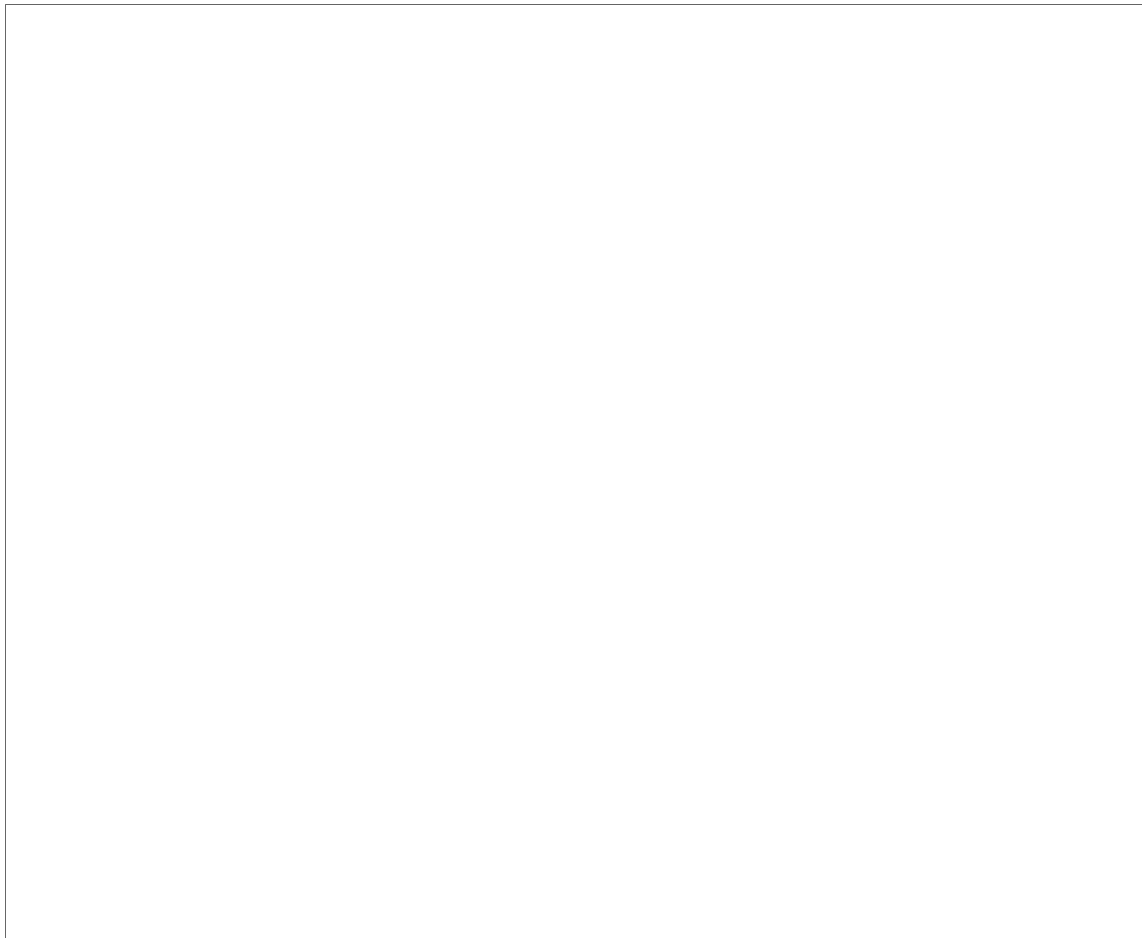
**(U) KHASHOGGI: CAVUSOGLU CRITICIZES POTUS COMMENTS, REFRAINS FROM ASSIGNING BLAME FOR MURDER, SAYS RTE-MBS MEETING UP TO RTE**

(U) Cavusoglu commented extensively on the Khashoggi case during a wide-ranging interview with CNN Turk on Nov. 23. Cavusoglu criticized President Trump's November 22 remarks on Khashoggi by implying POTUS's commitment to remain a "steadfast partner" of Saudi Arabia meant U.S. policy was motivated by financial concerns and support for Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS). Cavusoglu said that while Turkey "cannot blame anyone without clear evidence . . . our relations with Saudi Arabia cannot depend on a single person." On the subject of the alleged CIA audio recording implicating MBS, Cavusoglu said the United States had not shared such a recording with Turkey. Cavusoglu also raised the possibility of an Erdogan-MBS meeting on the margins of the G-20 in Argentina. MBS expressed his wish to meet in a phone call, but RTE would decide whether or not to meet, according to Cavusoglu.

*(SBU) Comment: Cavusoglu's interview and carefully crafted language are further indication of Turkey's efforts to keep the pressure on Saudi Arabia.*

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Signature:

[Redacted]

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Drafted By:

EXBS ANKARA: [Redacted]

Cleared By:

ECON: [Redacted]

Approved By:

POL [Redacted]

Released By:

ANKARA [Redacted]

Info:

CIA WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE;  
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE;  
ISTANBUL, AMCONSUL ROUTINE; AMCONSUL ROUTINE;  
EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE ROUTINE  
ST PETERSBURG, AMCONSUL

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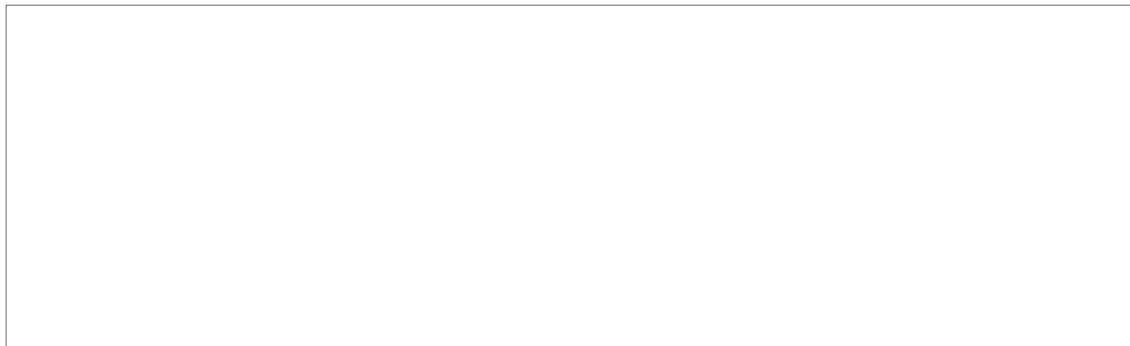


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**MRN:** 18 ANKARA 1186  
**Date/DTG:** Nov 15, 2018 / 150955Z NOV 18  
**From:** AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** ECON, PGOV, PREL, ASEC, RU, FR, SA, YE, TR  
**Captions:** SENSITIVE  
**Subject:** Turkey Daily Note for Thursday, November 15, 2018

**Turkey Daily Note  
November 15, 2018**

**Key Headlines**



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**Turkey, France Continue Spat over Handling of Khashoggi Case**

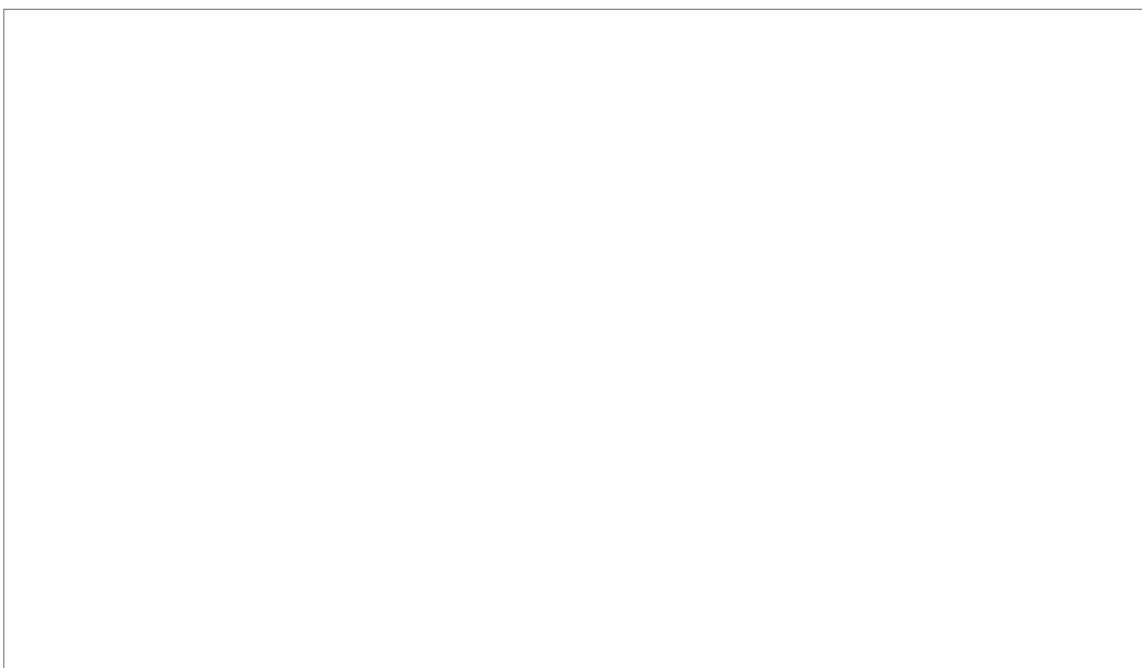
(U) Justice and Development Party (AKP) spokesman Omer Celik stated on November 14 that Turkey “firmly condemns” the French foreign minister’s criticism of President Erdogan’s handling of the case of murdered journalist Jamal Khashoggi. “We have found it strange of him [the French foreign minister] to speak in such an irresponsible and ignorant way,” he commented. French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian had remarked that Erdogan was playing “a political game” with the case. The same day, Turkish Foreign Minister Cavusoglu called for an international investigation into the case; Turkish authorities previously said their government would cooperate in an international investigation and had called for a UN probe.

*(SBU) Comment: The recent comments by Celik and Cavusoglu demonstrate continuing Turkish efforts to deflect criticism of its “slow drip” handling of the case.*

### Foreign Minister Criticizes Saudi Arabia on Yemen

(U) Cavusoglu announced on November 14 that Turkey supports the UN call for a cease-fire in Yemen. "Turkey also supports Oman's mediation efforts and has made contact with Iran. It disapproves of the United Arab Emirates' and Saudi Arabia's policies of besieging all the people in Yemen," he said.

*(SBU) Comment: While Turkey's position on Yemen is longstanding, Cavusoglu's pointed public statement likely reflects Turkey's belief that the Khashoggi case has weakened the Saudi government, presenting an opportunity to press Turkish goals in the region.*



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Signature:



Drafted By:

ANKARA

Cleared By:

ECON:

Approved By:

POL:

Released By:

ANKARA:

Info:

CIA WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE;  
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE;  
ISTANBUL, AMCONSUL ROUTINE; AMCONSUL ROUTINE;  
EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE ROUTINE  
XMT: ST PETERSBURG, AMCONSUL

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B1,1.4(D),B6



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**Date/DTG:** Oct 10, 2018 / 101437Z OCT 18  
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**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE *IMMEDIATE*  
**E.O.:** 13526  
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**Reference:** A) ANKARA 751  
B) ANKARA 745  
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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL YEKATERINBURG  
**Subject:** Turkey: Media Headlines Keep Focus on Missing Journalist

1.4(D)  
B1

**Signature:** Hovenier

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**Classified By:** Name: Scott Weinhold, Title: Acting Deputy Chief of Mission  
Office: U.S. Embassy Ankara  
**Derived From:** DSCG 17-1

**Declassify On:**

2043/10/10

**Drafted By:**

POL: [REDACTED]

**Approved By:**

A/DCM [REDACTED]

**Released By:**

ANKARA: [REDACTED]

**Info:**

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE;  
WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE;  
ISTANBUL, AMCONSUL ROUTINE; AMCONSUL ROUTINE;  
ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE ROUTINE; EUROPEAN  
COLLECTIVE ROUTINE; ZEN/ALEXANDRIA, AMCONSUL;  
ZEN/DUSSELDORF, AMCONSUL; ZEN/HAMBURG, AMCONSUL;  
ZEN/KRAKOW, AMCONSUL; ZEN/LEIPZIG, AMCONSUL; ZE  
AMEMBASSY; ZEN/STRASBOURG, AMCONSUL;  
ZEN/VLADIVOSTOK, AMCONSUL; ZEN/YEKATERINBURG,  
AMCONSUL  
XMT: SANAA, AMEMBASSY; ZEN/PETERSBURG, AMCONSUL

**Dissemination Rule:**

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B6



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B1,1.4(D),B6

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Sensitive



PORTIONS DECLASSIFIED 05/28/2019:  
Anthony Benesch, Senior Reviewer

**MRN:** 18 MANAMA 411  
**Date/DTG:** Nov 29, 2018 / 291305Z NOV 18  
**From:** AMEMBASSY MANAMA  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PREL, EPET, ENRG, ECON, SA, BH  
**Captions:** SENSITIVE  
**Subject:** Bahrain: Saudi Crown Prince's Visit Highlights Loyalty, Economic Bonds

1. ~~(C)~~ **Summary:** Saudi Crown Prince Mohamed bin Salman's (MbS) two day visit to Bahrain highlighted the strong and long-standing ties between the two countries. This was MbS' first official visit to Bahrain and his two-day program included a series of meetings with the leadership and formal receptions with senior Bahraini royals, ministers, and tribal/business family leaders. Diplomats were invited to a dinner banquet on the first night of the visit and to the ceremonial inauguration of the new Abqaiq-Sitra pipeline. Press coverage was predictably glowing, but [REDACTED] **End Summary.**

1.4(D)  
B1

#### **MbS Strengthens Ties with Government and Business Leaders, Inaugurates Pipeline**

2. ~~(C)~~ Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman arrived in Bahrain on November 25 as part of a regional good will tour in advance of his participation in the G-20 summit in Buenos Aires. This was MbS' first visit to Bahrain as Crown Prince, and he spent the majority of his time reinforcing ties with Bahraini royals through a series of meetings and events with King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, Crown Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, and Prime Minister Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa. This is not the first show of Bahraini support for MbS after the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi. Crown Prince Salman shared the stage with MbS at the Future Investment Initiative conference in Riyadh on October 24 and King Hamad visited King Salman in Riyadh on November 3.

3. ~~(C)~~ While MbS was received by King Hamad at the official Sakhir Palace, all other Bahraini officials reportedly came to him at an office prepared for MbS at Manama's Gudaibiya Palace, including the Prime Minister and Crown Prince. He also spent time in meetings and receptions with ministers and received tribal and business family leaders, such as the Al Zamil, Al Bassam, Al Doseri, Al Qatam, and Al Kaabi families, many of whom have dual Bahraini-Saudi Arabian citizenship. Post contacts reported that it would be standard for these families to "show loyalty" to Saudi royals during such visits. MbS also greeted members of the diplomatic community during a dinner banquet on November 25. In a November 26 cabinet meeting, ministers lauded the "pivotal" regional role of Saudi leaders, naming specifically King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Saud as well as MbS.

4. (SBU) Bahrain took advantage of the Saudi Crown Prince's visit to hold a ceremony celebrating the official opening of a new oil pipeline between Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. Dubbed "Abqaiq-Sitra pipeline," the new 110 km-long connection is underground and thus more secure than the current pipeline. It nearly doubles the amount of oil, to 360,000 barrels per day, that can be delivered as feedstock for Bahrain's Sitra oil refinery, which is also undergoing a major expansion in production capacity. Although the Sitra refinery expansion is not scheduled to be completed until 2022, the plans rely upon the new pipeline supplying the additional oil to be refined. (Note: A terrorist group detonated an IED, blowing a hole in an extension of that pipeline in the town of Buri on November 9, 2017, which the GOB quickly repaired. The attack underscored the vulnerability of the pipelines, which often run through population centers. It has reportedly sped up efforts by the GOB to bury the nation's pipelines, an effort that is ongoing. End note.)

#### **Media Coverage Widespread and Glowing**

5. (SBU) Local media featured widespread special coverage of the two-day visit, with Arabic daily *Al Ayam* symbolically printing its cover page in green in honor of Saudi Arabia's national color. The visit knocked coverage of Bahrain's first round of November 24 parliamentary and municipal elections off the front page. All Arabic dailies highlighted statements by King Hamad calling Saudi Arabia the "cornerstone of regional and international stability and security" and his public assurances that Bahrain would continue to stand by Saudi Arabia through "an international campaign" against its neighbor. King Hamad also praised Saudi Arabia's "noble and humanitarian role in Yemen." Praise for Saudi reform efforts by Bahrain's Crown Prince was widely quoted.

6. (SBU) One *Al Ayam* story entitled "Historic Unity of Destiny," published two photos with the caption: "This is where King Abdul Aziz and the grandfather of King Hamad posed for a photo during a state visit in 1939." In 2005, Abdulla bin Abdul Aziz, prior to assuming the throne, took a picture with King Hamad in the same spot. On November 26, the two leaders stood in that same spot for a photo, marking the deep roots between the two countries. (*see image*)

[Redacted]

1.4(D)  
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7. (C) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

1.4(D)  
B1

8. (C) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

1.4(D)  
B1

1.4(D)  
B1

9. (C) Comment:

1.4(D)  
B1

Signature: SIBERELL

**Classified By:** Name: Justin Siberell, Title: Ambassador  
Office: Embassy Manama  
Agency: State

**Derived From:** DSCG 17-1

**Declassify On:** 2043/11/29

**Drafted By:** MANAMA:

**Cleared By:** EXEC:

**Approved By:** Exec:

**Released By:** MANAMA:

**Info:** CIA WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE;  
WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; USCENTCOM CEN MACDILL AFB  
FL ROUTINE; MANAMAMEMBASSY ROUTINE;  
COMUSNAVCENT ROUTINE; USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB  
FL ROUTINE; COMUSMARCENT ROUTINE; NATIONAL SECURITY  
COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; COOPERATION  
COUNCIL COLLECTIVE ROUTINE  
**XMT:** SANAA, AMEMBASSY

B6

**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

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Sensitive

RELEASE IN  
PART B1,1.4(D),  
B6



PORTIONS DECLASSIFIED 05/28/2019:  
Anthony Benesch, Senior Reviewer

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**MRN:** 18 RIYADH 841  
**Date/DTG:** Nov 21, 2018 / 211547Z NOV 18  
**From:** AMEMBASSY RIYADH  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE *IMMEDIATE*  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PREL, ECON, KWMN, YE, SA  
**Captions:** SENSITIVE  
**Pass Line:** AMEMBASSY CAIRO PASS TO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA  
**Subject:** King's Shura Council Address Focused on Yemen Conflict, Rural and Economic Development and Female Equality

1. (U) **Summary:** In King Salman's annual address to the Shura Council, he emphasized the Saudi Arabian government's (SAG) progress toward Vision 2030 goals, rural development, and private sector job creation. Much of his speech addressed foreign policy, blaming the Houthis for Yemen's failure to reach a political settlement and praising Iraq for its efforts to build stronger ties. The King underscored the SAG's commitment to "applying God's law" but did not mention the Khashoggi killing. **End Summary**

#### **King Re-Emphasizes Rural Development**

2. (U) King Salman delivered his annual address to the Shura Council on November 19. The King spoke only a few minutes, focusing on the highlights of his address, while paper copies of the full text of the address were distributed to the participants. In the address, analogous to the State of the Union, the King extolled the progress toward Vision 2030 goals. He underscored SAG efforts to create employment opportunities, highlighting efforts to draw women into the workforce and to prepare the next generation for future jobs. The King touted SAG efforts to develop the tourism, renewable energy, and mining sectors. [Note: Following the Shura Council speech, the King departed Riyadh to visit the mining areas in al-Jouf on November 21. End note.] He informed the Council that the next phase of Vision 2030 implementation would focus on developing the private sector so that it would become a "pioneer" in investments in future technology. The King highlighted his recent visits to Ha'il and Qassim and planned visit to al-Jouf, citing his interest in meeting the Kingdom's citizens and reviewing development projects. The King assured the Council that the Crown Prince and ministers were carefully monitoring development projects and ensuring improvements in education and healthcare services.

#### **Salman: Sharia Gives Women "Full Rights"**

3. (U) The King emphasized both the Kingdom's foundation on sharia law and the role of women as a crucial element of the country's development. He stressed, "Saudi women are a partner with full rights according to our sharia law and we will continue our efforts to strengthen their participation."

Throughout the speech, the King included mentions of "Saudi men and women," compared to "citizens," which he had used in prior addresses.

#### **Houthis to Blame for Lack of Political Settlement in Yemen**

4. (U) The King spent much of his speech on foreign affairs. On Yemen, the King characterized Saudi Arabia's support for the ROYG as a "duty." He praised the efforts of UN Special Envoy Martin Griffiths to work toward a political settlement under UNSC Resolution 2216 and blamed the Houthis for blocking progress. In contrast, the King praised the Iraqi government for recent steps to strengthen cooperation with Saudi Arabia. The King also highlighted SAG political and financial support for the Palestinians and called for an independent state with East Jerusalem as its capital. The King briefly mentioned Syria, calling for a political solution and an end to "foreign meddling."

#### **SAG Will "Never Deviate" from Applying God's Law**

5. ~~(C)~~ The King did not mention the ongoing SAG investigation into the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi and related court cases. However, the King underscored the Islamic foundations of the Saudi justice system and assured the Council that the SAG would "never deviate from the application of God's law."

#### **Shura Council Members' Response Muted, but Eager to Undertake Reform**

6. (SBU) In meetings with Shura Council members the following day with Pol and EconOffs, members made little reference to the speech. Nevertheless, members expressed eagerness to enact reforms to attract investment and expand the private sector in line with the speech's theme. Deputy Chairman of the Health Committee Dr. Abdullah al-Otaibi highlighted efforts to introduce health insurance to Saudi Arabia and to modernize the patient record system to ensure insurance companies provided appropriate coverage. Deputy Chairman for the Culture and Information Committee Dr. Fawzia Abalkheil repeatedly pointed to private investment and coordination of inter-ministerial responsibilities through the Vision 2030 Coordinating Committees. Members expressed concern over delivery of services outside of major metropolitan areas, echoing the King's assurances that rural areas should not be left behind.

1.4(D)  
R1  
1.4(D)  
B1

7. (C)

**Signature:** STRONG

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**Classified By:** Name: Martina Strong, Title: Charge d'Affaires  
Office: U.S. Embassy Riyadh  
Agency: State

**Reason:** 1.4 (b), (d)

**Declassify On:** 2028/11/21  
**Drafted By:** RIYADH:POL:   
**Cleared By:** POL:   
PAS:   
**Approved By:** CDA:   
**Released By:** RIYADH:   
**Info:** ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE ROUTINE; ZEN/ALEXANDRIA,  
AMCONSUL  
**XMT:** BASRAH, AMCONSUL; SANAA EMBASSY

B6

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**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

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**RELEASE IN PART NR,B6**



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**MRN:** 18 RIYADH 1256  
**Date/DTG:** Nov 15, 2018 / 151120Z NOV 18  
**From:** AMEMBASSY RIYADH  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** ECON, EINV, EINT, ECIN, ENRG, EFIN, EIND, ELAB, EAGR, BTIO, SENV, SOCI, PGOV, PHUM, KWMN, KPRV, KBCT, GCC, 6P, IQ, SA  
**Captions:** SENSITIVE  
**Subject:** Saudi Arabia: Weekly Economic Roundup - November 15, 2018



**U.S. Embassy Riyadh – Weekly Economic Roundup  
November 15, 2018  
SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED**

*Embassy Riyadh's Economic Section welcomes your feedback and suggestions. To comment, or to be added to or removed from the distro list, please contact Brenda Santiago at [SantiagoB@state.gov](mailto:SantiagoB@state.gov).*

**In This issue:**

1. [Saudi Energy Minister Joins Calls for Cuts in OPEC Oil Production](#)
2. [Equity Investors Cautious, But Not Deterred from Saudi Market](#)
3. [U.S. Auto Industry Raises Concerns about Saudi's Stringent Fuel Economy Standards](#)
4. [Vision 2030 – Reality Check on Increasing Private Sector Employment](#)
5. [Saudi Food Conglomerate Dreams of Open Border with Iraq](#)

**In the News:**

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Upcoming Events

**Recent Cables:**

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**2. (SBU) Equity Investors Cautious, But Not Deterred from Saudi Market:** Investment portfolio managers from Bank of America Merrill Lynch, Morgan Stanley, and other financial institutions expressed concern about the opacity of publicly-traded Saudi stocks in a November 12 meeting with EconOffs. Many investors are seeking an entry point into Saudi equities, they said, and viewed the potential negative market reaction from the October 2 Khashoggi murder as an opportunity to buy shares at a discount. However, one portfolio manager observed that a “not-so-invisible hand” in the Saudi stock market appeared to provide price support before the end of each trading day October 7-12, propping up Saudi equity prices and clouding market reactions. These moves, combined with a lack of transparency, have raised concerns about company valuations, causing equity investors to step back – at least temporarily – from the Saudi stock market. That said, the portfolio managers felt that, despite these concerns and the recent uptick in political risk, investors will continue to pursue opportunities to purchase equity in large Saudi companies at the right price. When asked about investor reactions to the Khashoggi murder, representatives lamented the tragedy, but said they expected “business as usual” was returning to the Kingdom. An asset manager with a large U.S. financial institution discounted media reports about high-profile cancellations for the October 23-25 Future Investment Initiative (FII) conference, saying that “nearly all” of the same companies sent lower-level officials to attend. [Note: Post’s observation is that while some of the roughly 70 high-profile attendees who withdrew from the FII did send subordinates, many cancelled their company’s involvement altogether. **End Note.**] (Econ: Darren Perdue)



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Signature:

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Drafted By:

RIYADH:

Cleared By:

ECON:

Approved By:

CONS:

Released By:

RIYADH:

B6

Info:

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE;  
OF ENERGY WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; OF COMMERCE  
WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; DEPT TREASURY WASHINGTON  
DC ROUTINE; DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION WASHINGTON  
DC ROUTINE; DOW WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; WASHINGTON  
DC ROUTINE

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**RELEASE IN PART NR,B6**

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**MRN:** 18 CAIRO 2032  
**Date/DTG:** Nov 14, 2018 / 140740Z NOV 18  
**From:** AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE *ROUTINE*  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PREL, PGOV, PHUM, ETRD, EFIN, EINV, AU-1, DE, SD, RU, JP, CY, GR, ES, SA, LY, EG  
**Captions:** SENSITIVE  
**Reference:** A) 18 CAIRO 739  
B) 18 CAIRO 781  
C) 18 CAIRO 787  
**Subject:** Egypt: Africa and Eastern Med Feature Prominently in October  
Diplomacy

1. (SBU) Summary: Egypt continued to bolster its regional alliances in October and amplified its Africa policy ahead of chairing the African Union (AU) in January 2019. President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi and Foreign Minister (FM) Sameh Shoukry crisscrossed Europe and the Mediterranean, visiting Greece, Cyprus, Spain, and Germany. Sisi also traveled to Russia for three days to reaffirm Egypt's strategic partnership with Moscow, while China's Vice President Wang Qishan visited Cairo to pitch additional cooperation within the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative. Meanwhile, Shoukry traveled to Tokyo for the launch of an Egyptian-Japanese strategic dialogue, then visited Saudi King Salman Al Saud to reinforce Egypt's support regarding journalist Jamal Khashoggi's murder. End Summary.

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### Shoring Up Relations with Arab Neighbors

4. (SBU) In response to the Khashoggi murder, GoE statements and a Shoukry visit to Riyadh conveyed Egypt's support to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) (Ref B). Shoukry also met with new Iraqi Council of Representatives Speaker Mohamed al-Halbusi in Cairo in October 3, and expressed Egypt's desire to deepen cooperation with Iraq in all fields. On the Libya front, Shoukry met with UN Special Envoy to Libya Ghassan Salame on October 14, to exchange views on strategy and discuss Egypt's efforts to unite the Libyan military, according to diplomatic contacts and Egyptian press reports.

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Signature:

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Drafted By: CAIRO (Cairo)

Cleared By: ECON (Cairo)

POL (Cairo)

POL (Cairo)

MGT (Cairo)

Approved By: EXEC (Cairo)

Released By: CAIRO (Cairo)

Info: ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE ROUTINE;  
COLLECTIVE ROUTINE

AFRICAN

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**XMT:** BASRAH, AMCONSUL; SANAA EMBASSY

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**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

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**MRN:** 18 USMISSION SOMALIA 234  
**Date/DTG:** Oct 19, 2018 / 191158Z OCT 18  
**From:** USMISSION SOMALIA  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE *ROUTINE*  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PREL, EAID, ECON, ECIN, ASEC, PTER, SA, TR, SO, ET, ER, EAIR, KCOR  
**Captions:** SENSITIVE  
**Subject:** Somalia Scene October 19

NR



*President Farmaajo tours Merka October 14*

NR

3. (SBU) **Somalia Expresses Support for Saudi Arabia during Khashoggi Controversy:** The



Foreign Ministry tweeted an October 15 statement emphasizing Somalia's solidarity with Saudi Arabia after the gulf kingdom came under international scrutiny following the disappearance of Washington Post journalist Jamal Khashoggi at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul. A translation of the statement – published in Arabic – says Somalia would stand with Saudi Arabia “against anyone who attempts to harm it or its economic role and interests.” The statement came immediately following Prime Minister Hassan Ali Khayre's four-day visit to Saudi Arabia and despite the close relations between Turkey and Somalia. The Turks established their biggest overseas military base in Somalia, train Somali soldiers, operate the Mogadishu sea and air ports, and continue to develop economic interests around Somalia.

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Signature:



Drafted By:

SOMALIA:



Cleared By:

POL-ECON:



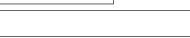
Approved By:

PD:



Released By:

SOMALIA:



Info:

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE;

B6

WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE;  
USAFRICOM STUTTGART GE ROUTINE; HOUTFWD ROUTINE;  
CJTF-HOA J2X CAMP LEMONIER DJ ROUTINE; COMSOCAFI  
STUTTGART GE ROUTINE; AFRICAN COLLECTIVE ROUTINE;  
SOMALIA COLLECTIVE ROUTINE  
XMT: SANAA, AMEMBASSY

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B1,1.4(D),B6

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**MRN:** 18 RIYADH 893  
**Date/DTG:** Dec 11, 2018 / 111235Z DEC 18  
**From:** AMEMBASSY RIYADH  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE *ROUTINE*  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PHUM, KWMN, SA  
**Reference:** A) 16 RIYADH 893  
B) 18 RIYADH 846  
**Pass Line:** AMEMBASSY CAIRO PASS TO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA  
**Subject:**

1.4(D)  
B1

1.4(D)  
B1

#### Background on the Shura Council

2. (U) The Shura ("Consultative") Council is an appointed, 150-member body paneled to recommend legislation and bring constituent views to ministries' and the leadership's attention. In January 2013, King Abdullah appointed women to the Shura Council for the first time and amended the council's bylaws to require at least 20 percent female representation in the future. The Shura Council now has 30 female members who work with their male colleagues to propose, discuss, and make recommendations with regard to legislation, though the council has no authority to enact laws (ref A), which must be enacted by royal decree.

1.4(D)  
B1

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1.4(D)  
B1



**Signature:** HENZEL

---

**Classified By:** Name: Christopher Henzel, Title: CDA  
Office: Embassy Riyadh  
Agency: U.S. Department of State

**Derived From:** DSCG 17-1

**Declassify On:** 2043/12/11

**Drafted By:** RIYADH: [REDACTED]

**Cleared By:** ECON: [REDACTED]

PAS: [REDACTED]

POL: [REDACTED]

**Approved By:** EXEC: [REDACTED]

B6

Released By:

RIYADH

B6

Info:

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE;  
WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; ARABUE COLLECTIVE ROUTINE;  
ZEN/ALEXANDRIA, AMCONSUL

XMT:

BASRAH, AMCONSUL; SANAA EMBASSY

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NR,B6



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**MRN:** 18 YEMEN AFFAIRS UNIT RIYADH 46  
**Date/DTG:** Nov 29, 2018 / 291617Z NOV 18  
**From:** USOFFICE YEMEN AFFAIRS UNIT RIYADH  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE *ROUTINE*  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PREL, PREF, ECON, YE, AE, IR, SA, UN  
**Captions:** SENSITIVE  
**Subject:** Yemen Situation Report for November 29 2018

## **Yemen Situation Report for November 29, 2018**

### **For Official Use Only**

#### **POLITICAL UPDATE**

##### **UN SG HOPEFUL ON SWEDEN PEACE TALKS**

(SBU) While the Ambassador continues to work with UN Special Envoy Martin Griffiths and diplomatic counterparts on supporting efforts to hold consultations between the ROYG and the Houthis next week in Sweden, the United Nations announced November 28 that the conditions are "almost ready" to hold next month's peace talks on Yemen. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said the organization was close to creating the necessary conditions to hold the Sweden talks between Yemen's warring parties in early December. "We are at a very crucial moment in relation to Yemen," said Guterres, who added that he had spoken earlier in the day to Griffiths. The current diplomatic initiative is being driven by the increasing threat of famine in Yemen, but also by international outrage over the murder of U.S.-based Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi on October 2 in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul which has put a spotlight on Saudi Arabia's role in the country's war.

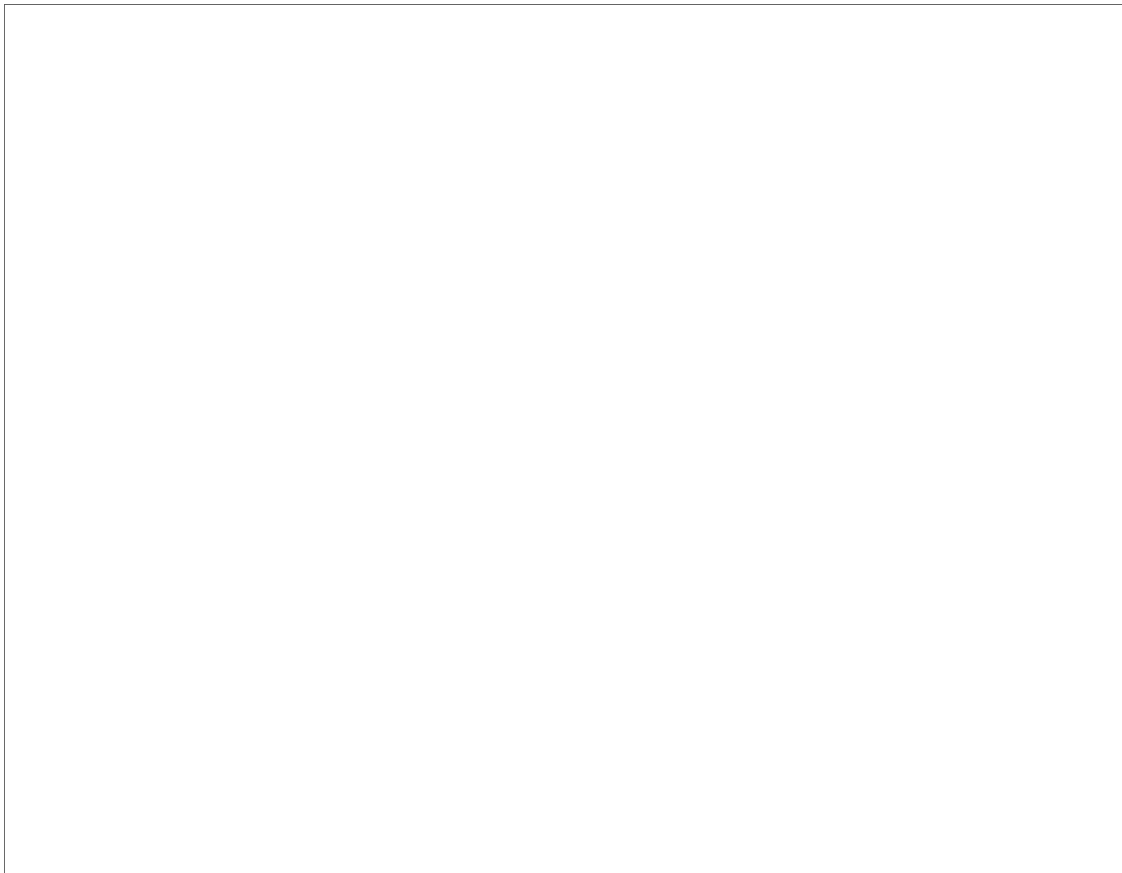
NR



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**Signature:**



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**Drafted By:** YEMEN AFFAIRS UNIT JEDDAH; [REDACTED] (YAU - Jeddah)  
**Cleared By:** POL-ECON [REDACTED]  
**Approved By:** EXEC: [REDACTED]  
**Released By:** YEMEN AFFAIRS UNIT RIYADH: [REDACTED]  
**Info:** CIA WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE;  
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE;  
LEAGUE COLLECTIVE ROUTINE  
**XMT:** BASRAH, AMCONSUL; SANAA EMBASSY

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**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

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B1,1.4(D),B6

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**MRN:** 18 ABU DHABI 779  
**Date/DTG:** Oct 29, 2018 / 290733Z OCT 18  
**From:** AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE *ROUTINE*  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PHUM, AE  
**Reference:** A) 18 ABU DHABI 385  
B) 18 MDA 3333  
**Subject:** UAE: MFA Confirms Emirati Activist Ahmed Mansoor is Appealing his Conviction

1. (C) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1.4(D)  
B1

2. (C) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1.4(D)  
B1

(SBU) EU Flags Concern in Mansoor Case

3. (C) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1.4(D)  
B1

[REDACTED]

1.4(D)  
B1

(C) [REDACTED]

4. (C) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1.4(D)  
B1

**(SBU) MFA Confirms Case Details, Access to Attorney, Medical Care, and Family**

5. (SBU) Al-Hebsi sent additional information to PolOff on October 24 regarding Mansoor's case. He confirmed that Mansoor had been convicted on five charges for defamation, disruption of public order, and propagation of incitement and hatred under various UAE laws, including the penal code, cybercrime law, and procedural criminal law. The points indicated that Mansoor had initially been charged with cooperating with terrorist organizations, a charge which was dropped due to insufficient evidence. Al-Hebsi confirmed that Mansoor was in the process of appealing the May judgment, and noted that the court has yet to set a date for a first hearing.

6. (SBU) According to al-Hebsi's information, Mansoor is receiving due legal process and has access to legal representation. He added that, "Mansoor refused to appoint legal representation in order to defend himself. In addition, due to the requirement of the UAE law, the State allocated a lawyer to him."

7. (SBU) Al-Hebsi reported that Mansoor's [REDACTED]

B6

[REDACTED] According to al-Hebsi, Mansoor is being held in Al Sadr prison in Abu Dhabi and permitted visitation from his family, most recently in April and May.

**Signature:** BONDY

---

**Classified By:** Name: Steve Bondy, Title: Charge d'Affaires  
Office: U.S. Embassy Abu Dhabi  
**Derived From:** DSCG 17-1  
**Declassify On:** 2028/10/29

**Drafted By:** POL:   
**Cleared By:** POL:   
**Approved By:** EXEC:   
**Released By:** ABU DHABI:   
**Info:** DIA WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE;  
USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL ROUTINE; COOPERATION  
COUNCIL COLLECTIVE ROUTINE  
**XMT:** SANAA, AMEMBASSY

B6

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**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

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1.4(B),B1,1.4(D),B6

~~SECRET//NOFORN~~



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**MRN:** 18 STATE 55147  
**Date/DTG:** Nov 20, 2018 / 200023Z NOV 18  
**From:** SECSTATE WASHDC  
**Action:** DOHA, AMEMBASSY *IMMEDIATE*  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PSSM, OVIP, (POMPEO, MICHAEL), KSAN, QA, SA, AE, BH, EG, TR, AF, IR, RU  
**Captions:** EXDIS, NOFORN  
**Pass Line:** RECORDS UNIT MAILBOX  
**Subject:** (SBU) Secretary Pompeo's November 14, 2018, Meeting with Qatari Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defense Affairs Khalid Al Attiyah (SES#201832060)

1. (SBU) November 14, 2018; 11:00 a.m.; Washington, DC; United States.

2. (SBU) Participants:

UNITED STATES  
The Secretary  
Timothy Pounds, NEA/ARP Office Director

QATAR  
Khalid Al Attiyah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defense Affairs  
Meshal bin Hamad Al Thani, Ambassador to the United States

3. (S//NF)

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

[Redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

(SBU) BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP

4. (S//NF) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

(SBU) GULF RELATIONS/RIFT

5. (S//NF) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

6. (S//NF) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

(SBU) IRAN



7. (S//NF)

[Redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

(SBU) TURKEY

8. (S//NF)

[Redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

(SBU) AFGHANISTAN

9. (S//NF)

[Redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1



1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

**Signature:** Pompeo

**Classified By:** Name: [redacted] Title: Executive Secretary  
Office: S/ES  
Agency: Department of State

B6

**Reason:** 1.4 (b), (d)  
**Declassify On:** November 16, 2043

**Drafted By:** NEA/ARP: [redacted]  
**Cleared By:** S/ES-S: [redacted]  
S/ES: [redacted]  
NEA/FO: [redacted]  
WASHDC: [redacted]

B6

**Approved By:** S/ES: [redacted]  
**Released By:** IRM\_OPS\_MSO: [redacted]  
**Info:** RIYADH, AMEMBASSY IMMEDIATE; DHABU,  
AMEMBASSY IMMEDIATE; BDBAI, IRAN IMMEDIATE;  
AMEMBASSY IMMEDIATE; CARACAS, AMEMBASSY IMMEDIATE;  
AMEMBASSY IMMEDIATE; NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE; KABUL, AMEMBASSY IMMEDIATE;  
MOSCOW, AMEMBASSY IMMEDIATE; WASHINGTON  
DC IMMEDIATE

**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

~~SECRET//NOFORN~~

~~SECRET//NOFORN~~  
Sensitive

RELEASE IN  
PART B1,1.4(D).  
1.4(B),B6



**MRN:** 18 ABU DHABI 733  
**Date/DTG:** Oct 16, 2018 / 161331Z OCT 18  
**From:** AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE *ROUTINE*  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PREL, PHUM, AE, SA, KMDR  
**Captions:** NOFORN, SENSITIVE  
**Subject:** UAE: Reaction to Khashoggi Disappearance and U.S. Response

1. (S//NF)

U

U

U

U

U

1.4(D)  
1.4(B)  
B1

2. (S//NF)

1.4(D)  
1.4(B)  
B1

[REDACTED]

1.4(D)  
1.4(B)  
B1

**(SBU) UAE Officials Publically Defend Saudi Arabia, Reject Threats**

3. (SBU) UAEG officials, social media commentators, and media figures have universally defended Saudi Arabia against reports of official involvement in the disappearance, and possible death, of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi. Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan (AbZ) tweeted his support for Saudi Arabia on October 12, writing that it was a stand with “honor, glory, stability, and hope.” On October 15, he affirmed the UAE’s full solidarity with Saudi Arabia in defending itself against attempts to undermine Riyadh’s regional stature and role in regional security. Following President Trump’s October 13 *60 Minutes* interview, in which he alluded to potential U.S. actions if the allegations surrounding Saudi-involvement in Khashoggi’s disappearance proved true, *WAM*, the official UAE news agency, reprinted statements from the Saudi Press Agency rejecting the use of threats against the Saudis.

**(SBU) Denying “Disinformation” a Priority for UAEG Officials**

4. (S/NF) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1.4(D)  
1.4(B)  
B1

5. (C/NF) [REDACTED]

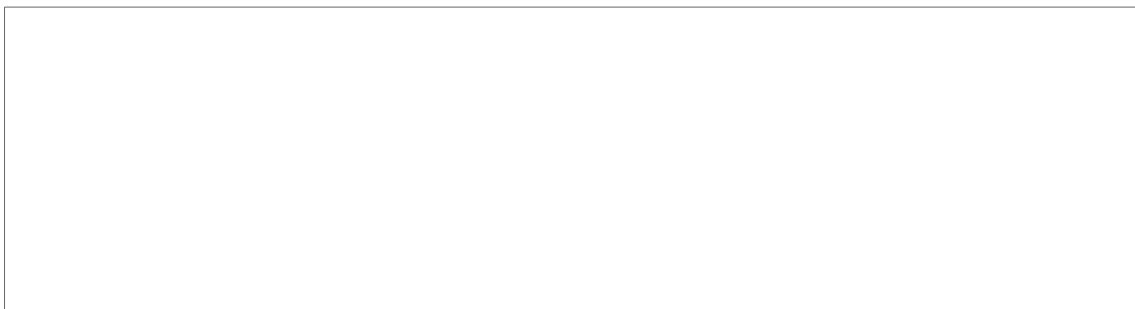
[REDACTED]

1.4(D)  
1.4(B)  
B1

**(SBU) Minister of State Gargash Reinforces Alleged Khashoggi Ties to Muslim Brotherhood**

6. (S/NF) [REDACTED]

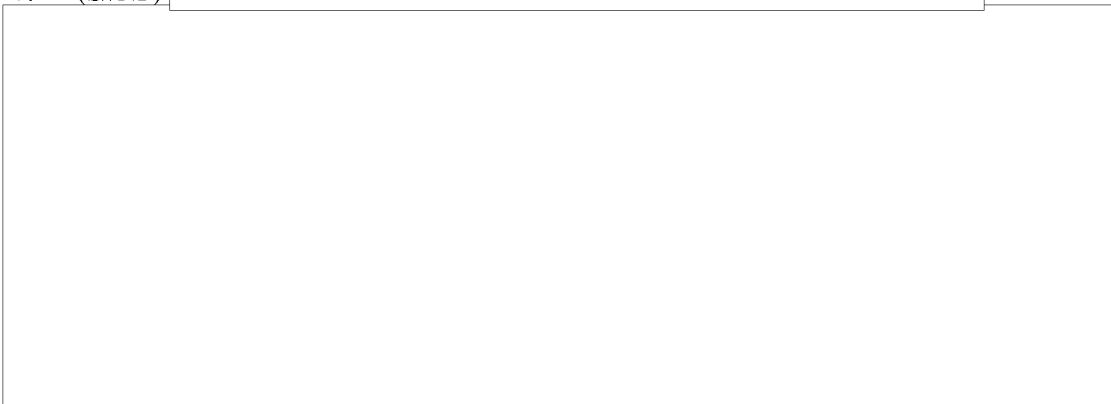
1.4(D)  
1.4(B)  
B1



1.4(D)  
1.4(B)  
B1

**(SBU) Media Defend KSA and Shifts Blame to Qatar, al-Qa'ida, Unnamed Countries...**

7. (S//NF)



1.4(D)  
1.4(B)  
B1

8. (SBU) On October 10, the Dubai-based and government-linked Arabic newspaper, *Al Bayan*, featured an op-ed entitled “Saudi Arabia is bigger than distortion campaigns,” which accused Saudi Arabia’s critics of running a political “campaign of lies against Saudi Arabia.” The op-ed asserted that it would have been easy to harm Khashoggi outside of the Saudi consulate in Istanbul, and stated that Khashoggi was considered to be an ally of Saudi’s rulers, again seeking to cast doubt as to why the Saudis would want to silence him. Fellow Dubai Arabic news daily *Al Emarat Al Youm* printed a less impassioned but no less shaming op-ed regarding the theories surrounding Khashoggi’s disappearance on the same day. Articles in local press coverage included pieces that were dismissive of Saudi involvement, and some, such as those run on *24.ae Media*, focused on members of Khashoggi’s family in Saudi Arabia who denied that Khashoggi’s Turkish fiancée, Hatice Cengiz, was even known to them (much less engaged to Jamal), and accused unnamed countries of exploiting the situation for a “malicious agenda.”

**(SBU) Dubai Businessman Calls for Boycott of Firms Pulling out of Saudi Projects**

9. (SBU) On social media and on *Arab News*, opinionated Emirati real estate mogul Khalaf al-Habtoor chastised business leaders such as Richard Branson (Virgin) and Dara Khosrowshahi (Uber) for pulling out of the October 28 Saudi Future Investment Initiative (FII) summit, as well as those who have suspended their involvement in projects in Saudi Arabia. He also urged GCC

countries and other Saudi allies to boycott Virgin, Uber, and any other companies who withdrew from the conference. Khalfan urged the White House to wait on inviting Khashoggi's "alleged" fiancée to visit until a formal investigation was concluded, and expressed shock that the U.S. Congress was pressing the White House to act while the investigation was ongoing.

1.4(D)  
1.4(B)  
B1

(C) [REDACTED]

10. (S/NF) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1.4(D)  
1.4(B)  
B1

**Signature:** BONDY

---

**Classified By:** Name: Steve Bondy, Title: Charge d'Affaires

**Derived From:** DSCG 17-1

**Declassify On:** 2043/10/16

**Drafted By:** POL: [REDACTED]

**Cleared By:** DUBAI POL/ECON: [REDACTED]

POL: [REDACTED]

PAS: [REDACTED]

**Approved By:** EXEC: [REDACTED]

**Released By:** ABU DHABI: [REDACTED]

**Info:** GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE ROUTINE

**XMT:** SANAA, AMEMBASSY

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**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

B6

~~SECRET//NOFORN~~

Sensitive

**UNCLASSIFIED**  
SBU

**RELEASE IN PART B6**



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**MRN:** 18 MUSCAT 708  
**Date/DTG:** Oct 22, 2018 / 221345Z OCT 18  
**From:** AMEMBASSY MUSCAT  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE *ROUTINE*  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PREL, PGOV, SOCI, KPAO, KMDR, OM  
**Captions:** SENSITIVE  
**Reference:** 18 MUSCAT 293  
**Subject:** Social Media Users React Negatively to Omani Government Statements on Khashoggi Case

1. (SBU) Summary: On October 14 and October 20, the Omani MFA issued official statements in support of Saudi Arabia regarding its explanations on the disappearance and confirmed death of Saudi citizen and journalist Jamal Khashoggi in Istanbul. Most Omani social media contributors criticized the October 20 statement, in particular, and argued that either Oman should have remained silent or stood up for Khashoggi's human rights, while others described the government's message as "balanced" support of the "sisterly" Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. End Summary.

#### **Social Media Users React Strongly to GoO Statements**

2. (SBU) On October 14, in response to a statement issued by Saudi Arabia's Foreign Ministry regarding the controversy surrounding journalist Jamal Khashoggi's disappearance, the Omani MFA issued an official statement mentioning the "strong" relations "between the Sultanate and its sister Kingdom of Saudi Arabia," noting "support to the Kingdom" in its efforts "to uncover the truth," and calling on all parties "not to rush" to making judgments (reftel). After the Saudi government released a second statement on October 20 admitting to the "accidental" death of Khashoggi, the Government of Oman issued a subsequent statement of support, stating, "The Sultanate followed the statement issued by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the preliminary results of the investigations into the unfortunate incident suffered by Saudi citizen Jamal Khashoggi, may God have mercy on him. The Sultanate welcomes the transparent measures taken by the Kingdom in this regard." This second statement in particular sparked strong responses from Omani social media users. Dr. Abdullah Bahajaj, an Omani writer known for his critical views of the Omani government, wrote on his Facebook page, "Oman has adopted a new concept for balance in the region," questioning whether Oman was coming under Saudi pressure and being forced to adopt this new "rapprochement policy based on a pragmatic view of minimizing losses."

3. (SBU) Other examples of opinions against both statements include, "We don't need this statement because it means that we believe the Saudi story, which nobody believes except people who are naïve. Being neutral and acting with diplomacy is something different and believing this story is illogical"; "The souls of people should not be played with. We must demand our rights"; "This statement is not in its appropriate place"; "Let them [Saudi Arabia] sink in their troubles. Why should we make such statements?!"; "We need to see the body of Khashoggi delivered to his family, only then we can describe the Saudi investigations as transparent"; "The truth about the disappearance of Khashoggi will be uncovered. The oil interests are on one side and the human rights are on another side"; "Truly, we are in a scary era. These crimes make the body shiver but the truth will soon be known. May Allah punish the criminals and make them known for the whole world."

#### **Minority Support for GoO Statements Also Expressed**

4. (SBU) While the majority of Omani social media users disagreed strongly with GoO statements, some expressed support for the Omani government's official response. In support of the October 14 statement, comments included, "This statement delights the heart and this is the Omani policy, which does not jump to conclusions without verifications"; "Each Muslim should stand with Saudi Arabia against the fake accusations which seek to destabilize its security"; "Oman always stands with its sisterly countries. It stood with Yemen to stop the aggression against it, with Qatar to lift the economic siege, with UAE to have back its island which is occupied by Iran and with Iran to maintain the Nuclear Deal"; "Regardless of our differences, the two countries have strong ties."

5. (SBU) Examples of support for the October 20 GoO statement included a posting that said, "We are proud of this statement that is marked with rationality and calmness as usual. Oman is following the law of not interfering in others' affairs and it avoids conflicts and differences that divide the relations with others"; "As usual, Oman is acting with rationality and political maturity, and avoids interacting with events emotionally."

#### **Many Social Media Users Find GoO Statements Out of Character**

6. (SBU) Comment: Oman's official statements on the Khashoggi case were uncharacteristic for a country that typically takes a neutral stance on most issues. Omani social media users' level of criticism for the GoO statements about the Khashoggi case was also uncharacteristic, possibly coming close to the government's "red line" for accepting public questioning of its policy positions. The fact that the GoO issued not just one, but two statements in clear "support" of Saudi Arabia is surprising, but some Omanis have suggested it could be the result of Oman's focus on protecting itself in an ever-changing and unpredictable regional situation. End Comment.

Signature:

B6

Drafted By:

PA

Cleared By:

POL-ECON:

EXEC/LEG:

B6



**Approved By:**

EXEC:

**Released By:**

MUSCAT: (Muscat)

**Info:**

CIA WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE;  
ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE ROUTINE; COOPERATION  
COUNCIL COLLECTIVE ROUTINE

**XMT:**

BASRAH, AMCONSUL; SANAA EMBASSY

B6

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**Dissemination Rule:**

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**UNCLASSIFIED**

SBU

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RELEASE IN PART  
1.4(B),B1,1.4(D),B6



DECONTROLLED

**MRN:** 18 RIYADH 823  
**Date/DTG:** Nov 13, 2018 / 131518Z NOV 18  
**From:** AMEMBASSY RIYADH  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE *ROUTINE*  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** ECON, EFIN, PGOV, KTFN, KSAN, SA  
**Captions:** SENSITIVE, NOFORN  
**Reference:** A) 18 RIYADH 783  
B) 15 RIYADH 861  
C) 18 RIYADH 509  
**Pass Line:** AMEMBASSY CAIRO PASS TO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA  
**Subject:** Saudi Arabia Affirms Commitment to Countering Illicit Finance and Promoting Strong Economic Ties during Secretary Mnuchin's Visit to Riyadh

1. (S/NF)

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

#### Crown Prince Praises Strong Economic and Security Ties

2. (SBU) Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS) praised the strong economic and security ties with the United States during an October 22 meeting with Secretary Mnuchin. MBS, joined by Saudi Ambassador to the United States Prince Khalid bin Salman and Minister of Finance Mohammed al-Jadaan, told the Secretary that Saudi Arabia stands firmly with the United States in joint efforts to counter Iran's malign activities in the region and in the fight against terrorist financing. Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 economic reforms, particularly efforts to reduce subsidies, successfully implement a value-added tax (VAT), and increase private sector labor force participation are key steps towards creating a more diverse economy, he said.

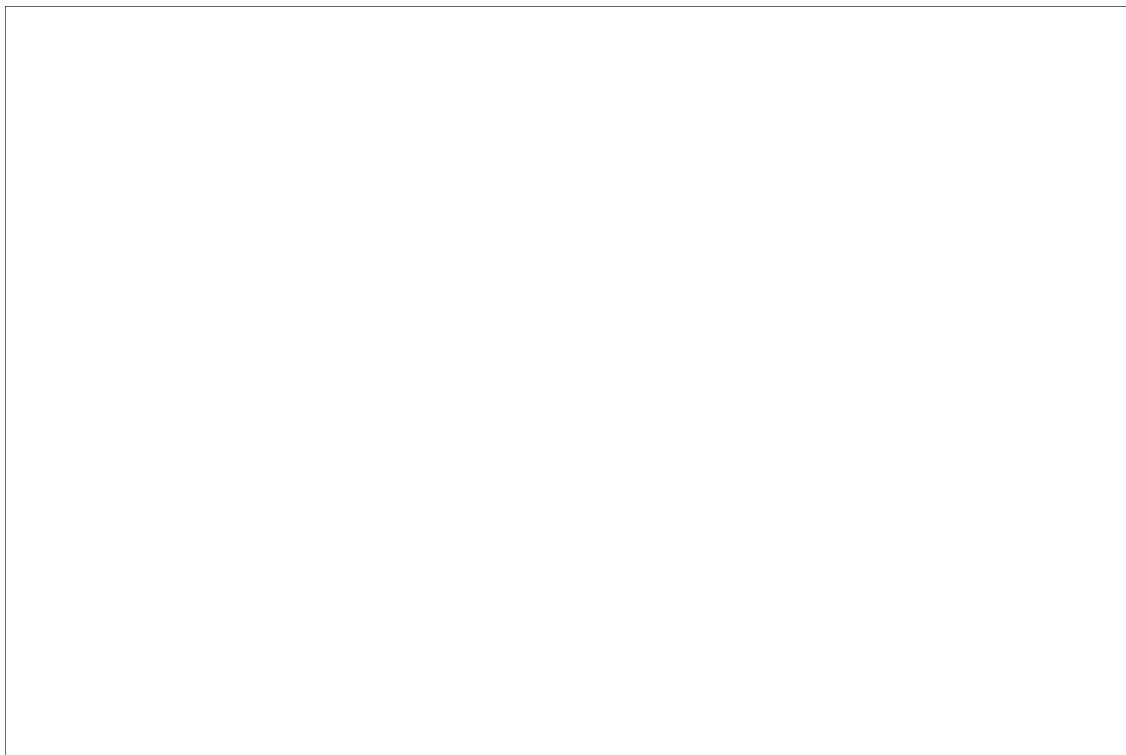
#### Saudi Security Officials Highlight Progress on Countering Terrorist Financing and Announce New Designations

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**Page Denied**

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1



(U) Secretary Mnuchin's staff cleared this message.

**Signature:** STRONG

---

**Classified By:** Name: Martina A. Strong, Title: CDA  
Office: EXEC, Embassy Riyadh  
Agency: U.S. Department of State

**Derived From:** DSCG 17-1

**Declassify On:** 2043/11/13

**Drafted By:** Treasury Attache: [redacted] (Riyadh)

**Cleared By:** A/DCM: [redacted] (Riyadh)  
POL: [redacted] (Riyadh)  
BPM: [redacted] (Riyadh)  
ECON: [redacted] (Riyadh)

**Approved By:** CDA: [redacted] (Riyadh)

**Released By:** RIYADH: [redacted] (Riyadh)

**Info:** DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; OF JUSTICE  
WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE;  
WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE ROUTINE;  
ZEN/ALEXANDRIA, AMCONSUL

B6

**XMT:** BASRAH, AMCONSUL; SANAA EMBASSY

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**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

~~SECRET//NOFORN~~  
Sensitive

~~CONFIDENTIAL//NOFORN~~

Sensitive

RELEASE IN  
PART  
B1,1.4(D),B6



DECONTROLLED

**MRN:** 18 STATE 52159  
**Date/DTG:** Nov 01, 2018 / 012041Z NOV 18  
**From:** SECSTATE WASHDC  
**Action:** YEMEN AFFAIRS UNIT RIYADH, USOFFICE ROUTINE; RIY/  
AMEMBASSY ROUTINE; AMBABI, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** OVIP, (SULLIVAN, JOHN J.), PREL, PGOV, ECON, SA, AE, OM, UN,  
EFIN  
**Captions:** SENSITIVE, EXDIS, NOFORN  
**Pass Line:** RECORDS UNIT MAILBOX  
**Subject:** [REDACTED]

1.4(D)  
B1

1. (U) October 23, 2018; 11:30 a.m., Washington, DC; United States

2. (SBU) Participants:

UNITED STATES

Deputy Secretary John J. Sullivan  
David M. Satterfield, Acting Assistant Secretary  
Kristofer Clark, Special Assistant  
Maria Davydenko, Notetaker

OFFICE OF THE UN SPECIAL ENVOY

Martin Griffiths, UN Special Envoy for Yemen  
Muin Buhran Shreim, Deputy UN Special Envoy for Yemen  
Emmanuel Barges, Special Assistant to the Special Envoy for Yemen

U.S. INSTITUTE OF PEACE

Peyton Knopf

3. (C) [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

1.4(D)  
B1

~~CONFIDENTIAL//NOFORN~~



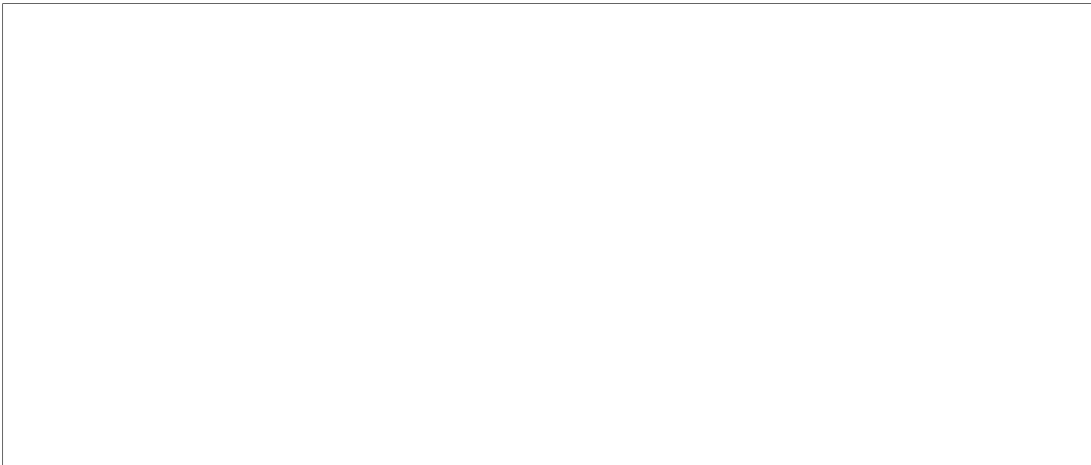


1.4(D)  
B1

(C) 

1.4(D)  
B1

4. (C) 



1.4(D)  
B1

(SBU) UPDATED FRAMEWORK WILL GUIDE NOVEMBER  
CONSULTATIONS

5. (C) 



1.4(D)  
B1

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1.4(D)  
B1

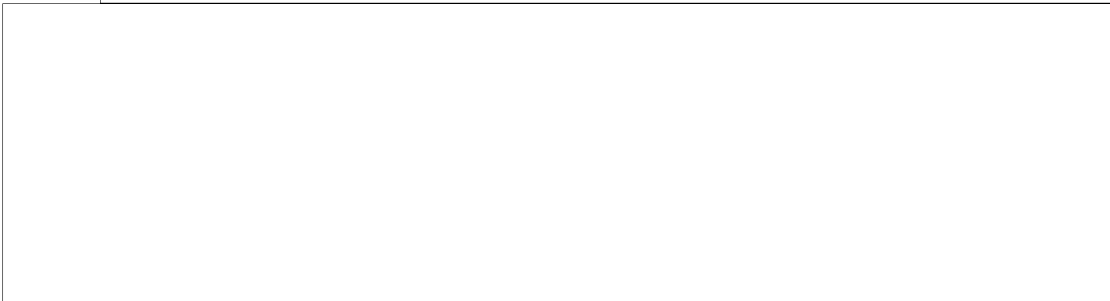
6. (C) 

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1.4(D)  
B1

(SBU) PROGRESS ON CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES

7. (C) 

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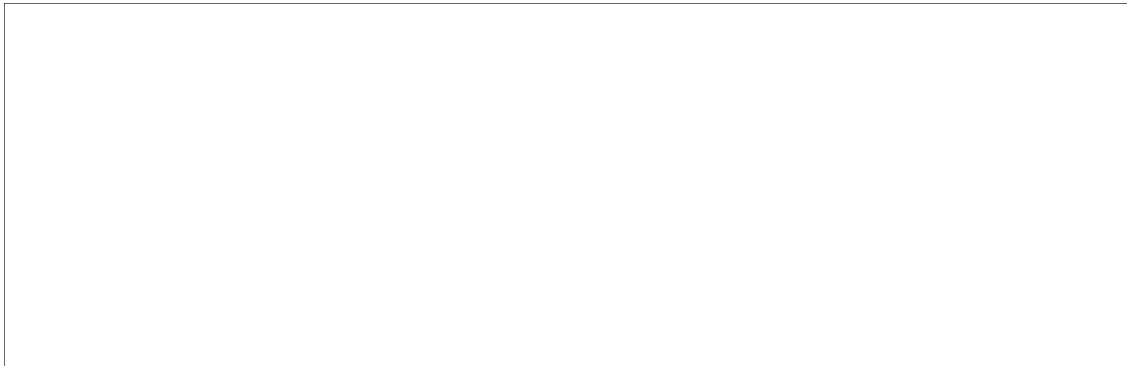
1.4(D)  
B1

8. (C) 

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1.4(D)  
B1

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1.4(D)  
B1

14. (C) [Redacted]  
[Redacted]

1.4(D)  
B1

**Signature:** Pompeo

---

**Classified By:** Name: David M. Satterfield, Title: Acting Assistant Secretary  
Office: NEA  
Agency: State

**Derived From:** DSCG 17-1

**Declassify On:** October 23, 2028

**Drafted By:** NEA\_ARP: [Redacted]

**Cleared By:** [Redacted]  
NEA/ARP: [Redacted]  
NEA/FO: [Redacted]  
NEA/FO:Satterfield, David M  
SES: [Redacted]

**Approved By:** [Redacted]

**Released By:** NEA\_ARP: [Redacted]

**Info:** NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE;  
NEW YORK, USMISSION ROUTINE; GENEVA, USMISSION ROUTINE;  
BRUSSELS, USEU ROUTINE; MUSCAT, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE;  
KUWAIT, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE

B6

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**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

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RELEASE IN PART  
1.4(B),B1,1.4(D),1.4(A),B6

~~SECRET//NOFORN~~

Sensitive



DECONTROLLED

**MRN:** 18 MUSCAT 307  
**Date/DTG:** Oct 25, 2018 / 251144Z OCT 18  
**From:** AMEMBASSY MUSCAT  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PREL, MARR, MASS, MCAP, ASEC, YE, SA, AE, IR, OM  
**Captions:** NOFORN, SENSITIVE  
**Pass Line:** AMEMBASSY CAIRO PASS TO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA  
**Subject:** Oman Scenesetter for Lieutenant General Bergeson

1. (S//NF)

[Redacted Content]

1.4(A)  
1.4(D)  
B1

**Regional Issues**

2. (S//NF)

[Redacted Content]

1.4(A)  
1.4(D)  
1.4(B)  
B1



1.4(A)  
1.4(D)  
1.4(B)  
B1

1.4(A)  
1.4(D)  
1.4(B)  
B1

### **Oman's Economic Challenges**

8. (SBU) Oman's economy is heavily reliant on its oil and gas sector, and oil revenues are by far the most significant source of governmental revenue. Despite a modest recovery in oil prices and a recent bond offering that could cover Oman's entire deficit for 2018, Oman's

economy continues to experience recurring fiscal deficits, current account deficits, growing unemployment, and modest growth. Current oil prices, if sustained over the coming years, could significantly reduce Oman's budget deficit, but prices would have to reach even higher levels to enable Oman to repay its mounting public debt. If oil prices fall back to 2017 levels or below, Oman will again incur very large budget deficits and have to turn again to the debt markets to cover the shortfall in revenue. Economic diversification is increasingly seen as a national security priority for Oman, as a growing population outstrips job creation and the government struggles to fund its costly domestic security apparatus. Despite this, the Omani government's efforts at developing the non-hydrocarbon sectors of the economy have been largely ineffectual, and the recent recovery in oil prices has removed some of the sense of urgency from diversification efforts.

1.4(A)  
1.4(D)  
1.4(B)  
B1

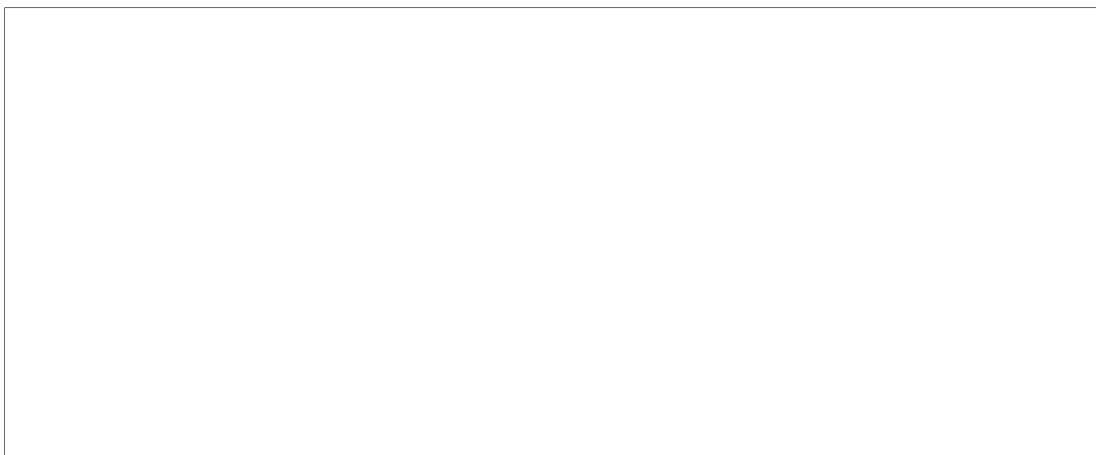




1.4(A)  
1.4(D)  
1.4(B)  
B1

**Sultan Qaboos and the Royal Succession**

B6



**Signature:** SIEVERS

**Classified By:** Name: Marc J. Sievers, Title: Ambassador  
Office: EXEC  
Agency: U.S. Embassy Muscat

**Derived From:** DSCG 17-1

**Declassify On:** 2043/10/25

**Drafted By:** POL/E [redacted]

**Cleared By:** OMC [redacted]

A/RSO [redacted]

POL/E [redacted]

EXEC [redacted]

**Approved By:** EXEC [redacted]

**Released By:** MUSCAT [redacted] (Muscat)

**Info:** CIA WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE;  
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE;  
USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL ROUTINE; WASHINGTON  
DC ROUTINE; HQ USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL ROUTINE;  
LEAGUE COLLECTIVE ROUTINE; COOPERATION COUNCIL  
COLLECTIVE ROUTINE; IRAN COLLECTIVE ROUTINE;  
ZEN/ALEXANDRIA, AMCONSUL

**XMT:** BASRAH, AMCONSUL; SANAA EMBASSY

**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

B6

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Sensitive

RELEASE IN  
PART  
B1,1.4(D),B6

~~SECRET//NOFORN~~

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DECONTROLLED

**MRN:** 18 RIYADH 419  
**Date/DTG:** May 21, 2018 / 211621Z MAY 18  
**From:** AMEMBASSY RIYADH  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE *ROUTINE*  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PHUM, KPAO, KWMN, SA  
**Captions:** NOFORN, SENSITIVE  
**Reference:** A) 18 RIYADH 389 (NOTAL)  
B) 15 RIYADH 115  
C) 17 RIYADH 661  
D) 16 RIYADH 389  
E) 15 RIYADH 937  
F) 17 RIYADH 585  
G) 17 RIYADH 891  
H) 17 RIYADH 643  
I) 17 RIYADH 917  
**Pass Line:** AMEMBASSY CAIRO PASS TO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA  
**Subject:** State Security Presidency Announces Arrest of "Spy Cell" Including Prominent Women's Driving Activists

1. (S/NF)

[Redacted content]

1.4(D)  
B1

SSP Announces Arrest of Seven Members of a Purported "Spy Cell"

2. (S/NF)

[Redacted content]

1.4(D)  
B1

~~SECRET//NOFORN~~

1.4(D)  
B1

#### Human Rights as a Pretext to Violate the Country's Laws

3. (SBU) The SSP's May 18 announcement declared the suspects had violated Article 12 of the 2001 Basic Law of Governance, which states that "promoting national unity is a duty, and the State shall prevent whatever leads to disunity, sedition, and division." The announcement listed four accusations against the seven individuals: 1) transgressing the country's religious and national principles; 2) making suspected contacts in support of activities of foreign entities; 3) recruiting persons in charge of sensitive government positions; and, 4) providing foreign entities with financial assistance with the aim of destabilizing the Kingdom. [Note: Based on experience in previous, parallel cases, new charges could be added during the investigation or trial processes. End Note.]

4. (SBU) On May 20, Saudi newspaper *Al-Sharq Al-Awsat* reported the suspects had "claimed to have religious obligations and were using human rights as a pretext to violate the country's [laws]." Saudi media reported the arrestees were responsible for the "end of male guardianship" social media campaigns. [Note: Saudi women activists used the hashtags #IAmMyOwnGuardian and #SaudiWomenDemandTheEndOfGuardianship in 2017 campaigns (ref F). Activists have used variations of these hashtags in recurring social media campaigns for several years. End Note.] On May 21, Saudi newspaper *Okaz* said the SSP had concluded a 680-day investigation into the seven persons for "violating religious and national norms as well as their suspicious communication with foreign parties." Citing unnamed legal analysts, the *Okaz* article assessed the individuals could face three to 20 years in prison, according to the March 2014 implementation regulations of the 2014 counterterrorism law. Additionally, the article noted the defendants could face the death penalty, if/if the *sharia* evidence requirements were met to prove treason. [Note: It is not clear why *Okaz* and other Saudi media outlets have claimed the 2014 counterterrorism law would be implemented instead of the 2017 counterterrorism law, which replaced the older law "with full effect" in November 2017 (ref G). End Note.]

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Fig. A graphic circulated by breaking Saudi news Twitter feed @SaudiNews50.

#### ...With a Religious Subtext

6. (SBU) SAG-affiliated social media accounts also included messaging with religious undertones about the arrests to coincide with the first day of Ramadan. @Infographic\_ksa (347K followers) posted a picture containing photographs of four of the activists with the Arabic-language words “the Devils [be] shackled”, an apparent reference to a popular *hadith*, or saying of the Prophet Mohammed, which says, in part, “On the first night of the month of Ramadan, the Devils are shackled, the *jinn*s are restrained, the gates of the Fires are shut such that no gate among them would be opened.” The logo of the Ministry of Interior was visible at bottom:



Fig. A graphic circulated by @Infographic\_KSA.

#### Other Perceived Activism

7. (SBU) Embassy contacts and some social media accounts affiliated with exiled opposition figures (including women's rights activists) claimed the arrested activists had attempted to establish an NGO to administer a shelter for domestic abuse victims. Anonymous Twitter account @ahdjadid (296K followers, likely affiliated with exiled opposition figures) tweeted that the activists "attempted to set up an NGO to protect domestic abuse victims. Although they filed all the right legal paperwork, the Ministry of Labor and Social Development was ordered by the Royal Court to withhold the license. The reason: this NGO is linked to detained [former MOLSD] Deputy Minister [for the NGO sector] Salim al-Deeny," said to be among those detained in September 2017 (ref H-I).

#### Saudi Social Media Reactions View Arrests Positively

8. (SBU) In stark contrast to international criticism of the detentions, Saudi social media users' reactions to the campaign were largely supportive of the arrests. The #Agents\_of\_Embassies hashtag peaked at number one on Saudi Arabia's May 18 trending list, reaching approximately 262,340 accounts and making 452,157 impressions. One representative user (@fdeet\_alnssr, 734K followers) tweeted: "Do not think that the security services do not know about your suspicious activities even if they have left you alone for a while. Do not think that the American or German embassy will protect you. Do not think that when you attack the state, its laws, and its men seeking protection from the Western organizations, you won't be held accountable!" The tweet received 8,281 retweets and 3,153 likes. Jamal al-Khashoggi, a well-known Saudi journalist living in "self-exile" in the United States, tweeted: "These good people have rights and dignity. This smear campaign is a violation of the most basic rights afforded by the law. They will emerge with heads held high and those who defamed them will be left with nothing but shame. We are not used to this treatment. When (Eissa) al-Hamid and other [ACPRA] activists were arrested, we simply published the official statement. No one dared do more."

9. (S/NF)

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10. (S/NF)

[Redacted]

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**Signature:** HENZEL

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**Classified By:** Name: Christopher Henzel, Title: Charge d'affaires  
Office: Embassy Riyadh  
Agency: Department of State

**Derived From:** DSCG 11-01

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B6

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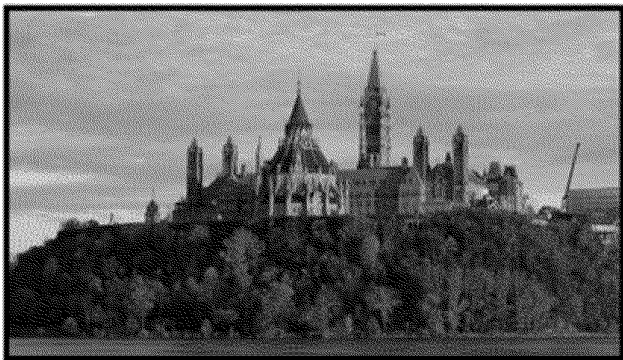
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**Date/DTG:** Oct 24, 2018 / 242101Z OCT 18  
**From:** AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE *ROUTINE*  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PGOV, ECON, ETRD, PHUM, PREL, MARR, MASS, CA  
**Captions:** SENSITIVE  
**Subject:** Ottawa Outlook October 24:  Saudi LAV Deal Carries  
Steep Financial Penalty for Canada

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Saudi LAV Deal Carries Steep Financial Penalty for Canada

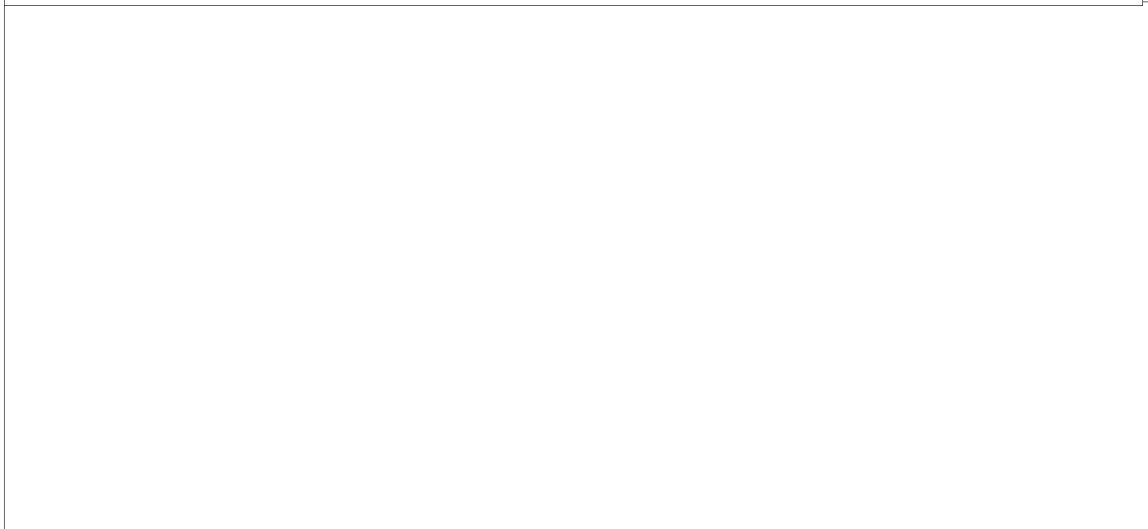
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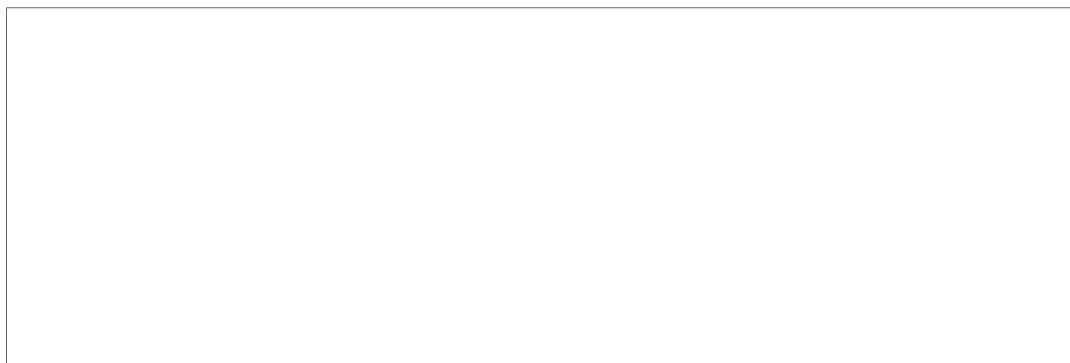
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#### 4. Saudi LAV Deal Carries Steep Financial Penalty for Canada

(U) PM Trudeau explained October 23, that although Canada was willing to freeze light armored vehicle (LAV) exports to Saudi Arabia, canceling or suspending the Saudi LAV deal could cost taxpayers as much as \$1 billion. The Prime Minister said his options were limited, and underscored that cutting off the sale, would affect thousands of jobs in Southwestern Ontario. FM Freeland argued that cancelling the 14-year deal could harm Canada's reputation. However, pressure is mounting on the government from human rights organizations and Canadian pundits, who have said should the results of a reputable investigation find Riyadh responsible for Khashoggi's death, Canadians would expect the government to act. Others opine that Canada may consider imposing sanctions against Riyadh under the Magnitsky Act.

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Signature:

[Redacted Signature]

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